



GLENELG HOPKINS CMA

Annual Report

2022
2023

Glenelg Hopkins
CMA

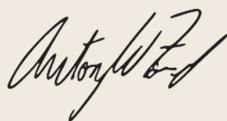
VICTORIA
State Government



Formation & CMA's role

RESPONSIBLE BODY DECLARATION

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2023.



Antony Ford
Chairperson, Glenelg Hopkins CMA

MANNER OF ESTABLISHMENT AND MINISTERS

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is established under the *Water Act 1994*. The responsible Minister for the periods:

1 July 2022 – 4 Dec 2022

The Hon. Harriet Shing MP, Minister for Water

The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Environment & Climate Action

5 Dec 2022 – 30 Jun 2023

The Hon. Harriet Shing MP, Minister for Water

The Hon. Ingrid Stitt MP, Minister for Environment

NATURE AND RANGE OF SERVICES PROVIDED

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is responsible, with others, for natural resource management within the region. It takes an integrated, whole-of-catchment approach by combining strategic planning with co-ordination for management of natural resources. Glenelg Hopkins CMA is an important link between community and government, supplying advice to the Federal and State Governments on environmental conditions, priorities, and direction within the Glenelg Hopkins region.

OBJECTIVES, FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES

The objectives, functions, powers and duties of Glenelg Hopkins CMA are largely contained within the following Victorian Acts:

- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*;
- *Water Act 1989*;
- *Financial Management Act 1994*;
- *Audit Act 1994*;
- *Freedom of Information Act 1982*;
- *Information Privacy Act 2000*;
- *Public Administration Act 2004*;
- *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*.

The functions, powers and duties of Glenelg Hopkins CMA under Section 12(1) – (4) of the *CaLP Act* are:

Each Authority has the following functions in respect of the region for which it has been appointed, to –

- Prepare a Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) for the region and to coordinate and monitor its implementation
- Prepare special area plans for areas in the region and to coordinate and monitor their implementation
- Promote the cooperation of persons and bodies involved in the management of land and water resources in the region in preparing and implementing the RCS and special area plans
- Advise the Minister, and, if requested by any other Minister, that other Minister on:
 - Regional priorities for activities by, and resource allocation to, bodies involved in the management of land and water resources in the region;
 - Guidelines for integrated management of land and water resources in the region;
 - Matters relating to catchment management and land protection;
 - The condition of land and water resources in the region.
- Promote community awareness and understanding of the importance of land and water resources, their sustainable use, conservation and rehabilitation;
- Make recommendations to the Minister about the funding of the implementation of the RCS and any special area plan;
- Make recommendations to the Minister and the Secretary about actions to be taken on Crown Land managed by the Secretary to prevent land degradation;
- Advise the Minister and provide information to the Minister on any matter referred to it by the Minister;
- Carry out any other functions conferred on the Authority by or under this Act or any other Act.

Each Authority has power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with, or as incidental to, the performance of its functions, including any function delegated to it.

Subsection (2) is not to be taken to be limited by any other provision of this Act that confers a power on the Authority. Each Authority has the duties conferred on it by or under this or any other Act.

The Authority has additional objectives, functions, powers and duties for waterway management, floodplain management and regional drainage conferred under Part 7 and Part 10 of the *Water Act 1989*.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA

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Acknowledgement of Country

We proudly acknowledge the Traditional Owners, and Aboriginal communities and organisations, in the Glenelg Hopkins region. We acknowledge their rich cultural diversity and intrinsic connection to Country. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future. We recognise the interests, rights and obligations that Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities have in land and water management.

Traditional Owners have never ceded their rights to land, water and other natural resources, or their cultural obligations to look after Country.

Four Traditional Owner groups have responsibility for cultural landscapes across the Glenelg Hopkins region – Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Barengi Gadjin Land Council. Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation, representing Boandik Traditional Owners, also have interests and connections to Country in the western part of the Glenelg River catchment.

We value our work together, for the health of people and Country.



Artwork by Thomas Day

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Year in review

Report from the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer

On behalf of the Board of Directors, management, and staff, we are pleased to present the 25th Annual Report of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.

This year is a monumental year as it represents the 25th anniversary when CMAs were first established in Victoria. To acknowledge the occasion the Victoria CMAs have collectively developed an actions and achievements report that highlights what has been achieved over the last 25 years and also celebrates the important role that the community plays in enhancing the land, water and biodiversity of the regions.

Another significant milestone this year was the completion of the 5-year Regional Landcare Partnerships Program. This program was delivered with several regional agencies, Traditional Owner Groups, NGO's, Universities, community groups and individual landholders. These important partnerships have been crucial to help achieve the significant outcomes through this program. The projects were focused on the Hooded Plover, Australasian Bittern, Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, the Victorian Volcanic Plains, Button Wrinklewort, Eastern Barred Bandicoot, Orange-bellied Parrot and Sustainable Agriculture.

Some notable achievements included:

- 70% increase in Hooded Plover chick survival with 208 chicks fledged
- 24,402 birds counted along our coast = 32% of migratory shorebirds recorded in Australia
- 866 ha of critical grasslands, wetlands and woodlands protected on the Victorian Volcanic Plain
- Eastern Barred Bandicoot downlisted from extinct in the wild to critically endangered
- 106 whole farm plans created.

The condition of biodiversity in our region is considered poor. Continuing threats such as the impact of pest and weed invasion, land use change, hydrological

change, continued land clearing and development are also exacerbated by climate change. The CMA is working with the community and other key agencies to help reverse this decline, but it continues to be a challenge. It is hoped that the recent bid submission of the next 5 years of funding under the Australia Government NHT program, if successful, will enable us to further our work in protecting and enhancing our region's land, water, and biodiversity. The success of the Victorian Governments Naturefund bids will also provide critical funding for several threatened plant species on the Victorian Volcanic Plain as well as the Southern Bent-wing Bat in the Portland area.

Much has happened at the CMA in the water space this year, in particular with the flooding in October 2022 that impacted across many parts of the catchment. The hard and fast nature of the floods resulted in the vulnerable Dundas tablelands soils being affected, causing fencing damage, erosion and large scale sediment release.

The CMA through its regional Works Crew has undertaken over 40kms of fencing repairs and attended 111 sites. Preparations are underway for revegetation and fencing projects to minimise the ongoing impacts of over 20 large scale erosion sites across the catchment.

The Rivers of Warrnambool Flagship Project continues to deliver significant environmental and recreational improvement to the Merri and Hopkins Rivers. Of note is the completion of the Merri Connections Project. This partnership between the CMA and Warrnambool City Council oversaw the installation of the all-ability kayak launch, all-ability carpark and concrete pathways along the river's edge. The newly constructed kayak launch and footpaths offer a safe and accessible entry point to the river for community members of all abilities. The footpaths are designed to accommodate both pedestrians and

cyclists, providing a convenient and scenic route through the Woodend Road precinct.

The region now has completed Southwest Irrigation Development Guidelines (IDG). The IDGs articulate the steps required by an applicant to receive a new or modified Take and Use License. It describes the process, who needs to be involved and their respective responsibilities. The guidelines were collaboratively developed with Southern Rural Water (SRW), Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and West Gippsland CMA, which will provide consistency of approach across the SRW area.

Funding through the Victorian Estuary Resilience and Hazard Risk Reduction project will contribute to the mitigation of coastal hazard risk for a diversity of estuary values including public infrastructure and critical assets, and help reduce the need for artificial estuary openings. The CMA is working closely with Deakin University to monitor coastal impacts through mapping the distribution of estuarine seagrass meadows in the Glenelg Hopkins region, and identifying trends, drivers of change, and suitable sites for restoration.

The CMA also had several other successful bids focused on estuaries and climate change resilience along our coast. These projects will help us to address some of the most pressing environmental challenges facing our coastal region, and we are excited to see the positive impact they will have.

The Glenelg Hopkins region is home to a vibrant food and fibre sector, including red meat production, grains and cropping, wool, dairying, aquaculture and forestry. The region is Australia's most productive agricultural regions producing agricultural commodities with a gross value of \$2,796 million in 2019-20. Moving towards a sustainable approach for farming is seen as critical to maintaining this productivity into the future.

To support farmers in changing to more sustainable farm practices, in 2022/23, Glenelg Hopkins CMA worked with community partners and held 31 workshops on a variety of topics (e.g., improving and protecting soil, promoting soil biology and carbon, regenerative agriculture, climate change adaptation, whole farm plan creation and revision), with a cumulative audience of 720 farmers and farm service providers.

Aboriginal people have a strong and continuing connection with the land and water across the Glenelg Hopkins region. They have important cultural obligations to manage their lands and waterways. Traditional Owner led management of Country is central to the region's future. The Victorian Government recently released 'Water is Life', which was officially launched in September 2022 by Minister for Water Harriet Shing at Budj Bim World Heritage site. Water is Life sets out the opportunities for Traditional Owners to increase involvement in water management in Victoria. The CMA is committed to self-determination principles and Traditional Owner engagement in water and catchment management, and is guided by relevant Country Plans and aspiration statements.

Over the past year, the CMA has invested significantly in partnership work and development with Traditional Owner groups. Major projects have included:

- Working with Gunditj mirring TOAC on the management of over 1000ha of feral pig control in the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape.
- Finalising Eastern Maar and Wathaurong agreements
- Reviewing the Aboriginal Partnership Framework
- Developing an Indigenous Participation Plan for the NHT program

The CMA Board continually reviews financial management, governance, and growth of the CMA, as well as its relationships and opportunities. During 2022-23 the Board held meetings in Hamilton, Dunkeld, Coleraine, and Warrnambool. The Board will continue to hold approximately half its meetings on-line and will engage with the community when at in-person meetings around the region.

A major undertaking for the Board in 2022-23 was the confirmation of Adam Bester for another five years as CEO.

In April 2023, the Board held a Cultural Awareness session, led by Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation in Dunkeld, with Advisory Group members joining.

In May 2023, the Board and Management met with Southern Grampians Shire Council members and the community in Coleraine to discuss flood management issues and history.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has two community advisory groups. In late 2022, expressions of interest were sought from community members to submit an interest in being a member of the Community Advisory Group or the Glenelg River Environmental Water Advisory Group. Fourteen community members were appointed to these committees, some were appointed to both.

The Advisory Groups support the CMA by providing feedback on strategic planning, adaptive management, reporting of catchment achievements, and identifying current NRM and Integrated Catchment Management issues and opportunities.

The groups assist in implementing the CMAs Catchment Partnership Agreement, and are supported by funding from the Victorian Government's Our Catchments Our Communities program.

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to report that the CMA has continued to increase its social media and online engagement. With over 51,725 followers on social media platforms and a total of 35,308 visitors to our website, we have made significant strides in connecting with our audience.

This success can be attributed in part to our engagement programs, including Bandicam, which builds on the success of Platycam. Bandicam is a livestream of Eastern Barred Bandicoots from Hamilton, Victoria. The livestream can be found on the Bandicam YouTube Channel - www.bandicam.com.au As we look to the future, we are excited to implement our new communications strategy and continue to grow our online presence, external newsletter, and mainstream media. Thank you for your continued support of the CMA.

One of our key achievements for Glenelg Hopkins CMA this year was the commencement of our People and Culture Strategy. This Strategy aims to empower and support our staff, enabling them to deliver our purpose and strategy effectively. We believe that by investing in our people, we can create a high-performing workforce that is engaged, equipped, and supported to achieve the best NRM outcomes for the Glenelg Hopkins region.

This year we had three staff that were acknowledged for years of service.

These included:

- David Nichols (20 years)
- Jacinta Hendriks (15 years)
- Laura Haeusler (10 years)

The CMA strives to be a safe and productive workplace. In 2022-2023, we committed to working with our stakeholders and community to continually improve our safe work practices and to deliver our funded programs.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is proud to be a regional leader in taking action on climate change, to commit to reaching net zero emissions for our own operations. The CMA is developing a carbon neutrality action plan, with key actions to be implemented in the coming years.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA would like to thank the Board and staff for their efforts over the past twelve months and looks forward to continuing to work with the community and stakeholders to protect and improve our natural resources.



Antony Ford
Chairperson, Glenelg Hopkins CMA



Adam Bester
Chief Executive Officer
Glenelg Hopkins CMA

Operational & Budgetary Objectives

PERFORMANCE AREA	PERFORMANCE TARGET	COMMENTS
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE	A board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued. Submitted annually.	Submitted electronically on 30 August 2022 to The Hon. Harriet Shing, Minister for Water.
	A risk management strategy/ plan approved by the board and being implemented.	The CMA has a Risk Management Plan that is approved by the Board and is being implemented. The Plan is updated annually and was last approved by the Board on 31 May 2023.
	100% of the CMA's policies and procedures reviewed every three financial years.	A detailed audit of the CMA Board and Operational Policies was undertaken during the 2021/22 financial year. These processes have included staff, Audit and Risk Committee, and Board. Over the last three years, the Board (and Audit and Risk Committee) received 100% of Board Policies. The Board Policies Operational Review Schedule Guideline was finalised in December 2022 and a new rotation schedule will be implemented from August 2023 onwards. During 2023/24, an audit of HR policies and procedures will be undertaken.
	Full compliance with all applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Compliance Framework Checklist.	Fully compliant with all standing directions with the exception of two, and both are partially compliant, with no non-compliant material.
REGIONAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION	A Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) approved by the Minister.	The new Glenelg Hopkins RCS 2021-2027 was approved by the Minister and gazetted on 28 April 2022.
	A stakeholder and community engagement framework/plan approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins CMA Community Engagement and Partnership Strategy 2019-2024 was developed in 2019/20. An internal mid-term review was completed in early 2023.
	A Regional Landcare support plan approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Support Plan 2021-2026 was completed by 30 June 2021.
	A Regional Waterways Strategy approved by the Minister.	The Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 was approved by the Minister in August 2014. A Final Review of this strategy was recently completed.
	A Regional Floodplain Strategy approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Floodplain Management Strategy was approved by the Board in December 2017 and was accepted by DELWP in April 2018.

PERFORMANCE AREA	PERFORMANCE TARGET	COMMENTS
REGIONAL DELIVERY	Progress with implementation of the RCS (and its major sub-strategies) is reviewed by the Board annually.	The new Glenelg Hopkins RCS 2021-2027 was gazetted and commenced operation on 28 April 2022. The first Annual Implementation Report will be presented to the Board in August 2023.
	Projects/activities to implement the RCS are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	Projects that support implementation of the RCS were delivered and reported according to their associated funding agreements.
	Projects/activities to implement the regional waterways strategy and the regional floodplain management strategy delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	Projects to implement the Regional Waterway Strategy and the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy have been delivered and reported on according to associated funding agreements. The Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy is reviewed annually by the Board. All actions are to be completed over the life of the Strategy. The Regional Floodplain Management Strategy was completed in 2018. The Mid-term Implementation Report has been completed and will be brought to the Board in August 2023. 80% of actions have been completed or are underway.
STATUTORY FUNCTIONS UNDER PART 10 OF THE WATER ACT	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice, and licences) associated with waterway and floodplain management are responded to within the prescribed period.	79.2% of Flood Advisories were responded to within the prescribed period. 74.4% of Flood Referrals were responded to within the prescribed period. 80.3% of Works on Waterways Licences were issued within the prescribed period. 80.4% of Works on Waterways Advice were issued within the prescribed period.
STATUTORY FUNCTIONS UNDER PART II OF THE WATER ACT	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice, and licences) associated with irrigation management are responded to within the prescribed period.	100% of irrigation management responses were issued within the prescribed response period.



Five year summary

- financial performance at a glance

	2023 (\$ '000)	2022 (\$ '000)	2021 (\$ '000)	2020 (\$ '000)	2019 (\$ '000)
Victorian Government contributions	9,109	7,517	7,305	6,082	12,205
Federal Government contributions	4,653	3,030	3,090	3,811	2,108
Other revenue	596	264	128	279	792
Total revenue	14,358	10,811	10,523	10,171	15,105
Total expenditure	10,926	9,001	9,334	12,349	14,323
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	3,432	1,810	1,189	(2,203)	782
Financial assets	14,562	11,000	8,889	7,756	10,045
Total assets	15,718	12,169	10,338	8,874	10,743
Liabilities	1,961	1,845	1,824	2,036	1,702
Net assets	13,756	10,324	8,514	6,838	9,041

CURRENT FINANCIAL REVIEW

OVERVIEW

In 2022-23 GHCMA achieved a net operating surplus of \$3.4 million, a \$1.6 million variance to 2021-22. Income has increased from prior year largely due to new projects taken on; in addition to revenue received in advance for the 2023-24 financial year. Expenditure increased due to the timing of project expenditure.

BALANCE SHEET

Net Assets have increased by \$3 million to \$13.4 million due to the increase in total assets by \$3.5 million (cash increase of \$2.4 million and non-financial assets decreased by \$14K. Liabilities increased by \$116K.

CASH FLOW

The cash increase of \$2.4 million for the 2022-23 financial year was a net increase of \$1.8 million compared to the previous year. This increase was the result of revenue received in advance for the 2022-23 year in addition to a reduction in cash outflows due to the timing of project expenditure over the course of the year.



Glenelg Hopkins CMA

2022-2023 year in review



Total Investment:
\$13.8 MILLION

\$4.7 Million
FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT

\$9.1 Million
STATE
GOVERNMENT

37

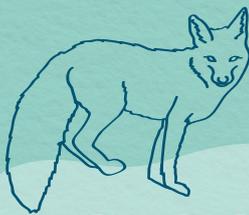
PARTNERSHIPS
ESTABLISHED

526^{HA}
REVEGETATED



110

MANAGEMENT
AGREEMENTS



2,893^{HA}
PEST ANIMAL
CONTROL

3,482^{HA}
WEEDS
CONTROLLED



6,486 PEOPLE
ENGAGED WITH
AT EVENTS



115^{KMS}
FENCING



Media

BROADCAST MEDIA:

196
MEDIA ITEMS

828,956
AUDIENCE



329.44
MINUTES
BROADCAST



59,247
WORDS PRINTED



\$884,413
ADVERTISING SPACE RATE
EQUIVALENT



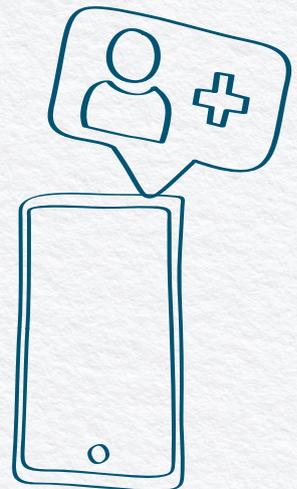
ONLINE MEDIA: FACEBOOK/TWITTER/INSTAGRAM:



964
posts

6,470,691
profile impressions

51,725
followers



5,951,475
post impressions

3,189,065
engagements

10.3%
average post
engagement rate

3,005,014
video views

YOUTUBE:

12,159

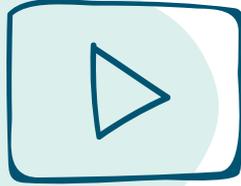
You Tube video views

923.1

hours watched

281

channel Subscribers



WEBSITE:

35,308

website visitors

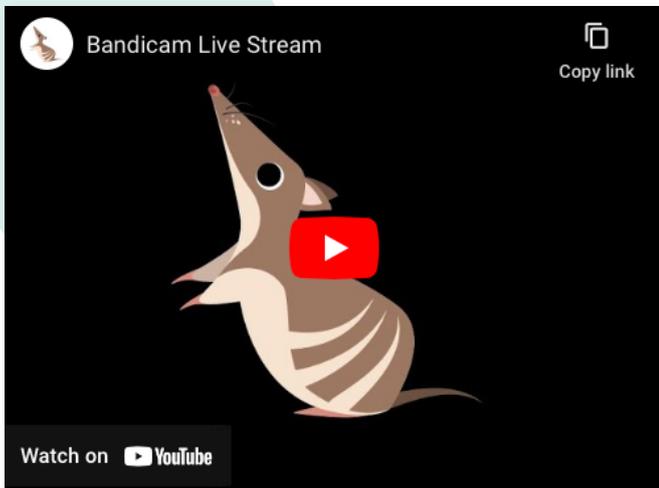
700

daily visitor peak



HIGHLIGHTS:

BANDICAM LAUNCH



Livestream of Eastern Barred Bandicoots in the Hamilton Parklands safe haven.

Switched on: October 3, 2022

Link: www.bandicam.com.au



MOST ENGAGED WITH SOCIAL MEDIA POST:



Bandicoot out of a bag post:

Posted: January 1, 2023

Reach: 3.6 million

Views: 3.1 million

Engagements: 63,616

About the CMA

Our Vision and Purpose

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA seeks to align its Vision and Purpose with undertaking activities that will achieve these strategic outcomes. It does so by utilising the framework outlined below:



VISION: Empowered communities nurturing a rich and connected landscape for all – today, tomorrow, together.

DOMAIN: There are sufficient people and resources committed to actively improving the health, protection and sustainability of the environment and natural resources.

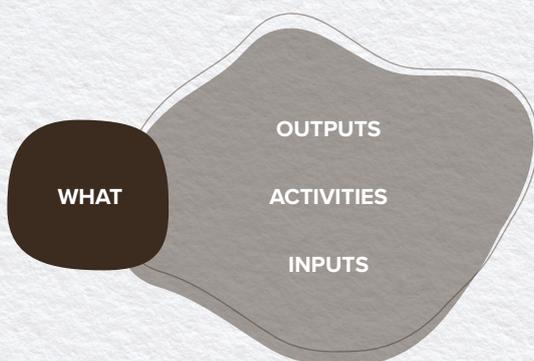
OUTCOMES: Climate change policy implementation, waterway and catchment health, water and sustainable agriculture, community engagement and partnerships, resilient and liveable cities and towns, Aboriginal cultural values and inclusion in the water sector, recreation values, floodplain management, environmental water, leadership diversity and culture and financial sustainability.

OUR PURPOSE: Working in partnership with landholders and the community to protect and enhance our region's land, water and biodiversity resources.



OUR APPROACH: Enabling, collaboration and inclusion, sustainability, learning and continuous improvement, health and wellbeing, leadership, VPS values and behaviours.

OUR STRATEGIES: Build capability and capacity, effective and demonstrated delivery, attract investment, regional leadership, people and safety. Knowledge growth, breadth and depth of participation, partnerships, integration and coordination, broad base of resourcing, regional MERI and planning, adapting for climate change, staff and organisational development, considered risk taking, strong governance and business management.



OUTPUTS: DEECA standard outputs, letter of expectation measures and business strategy performance indicators.

ACTIVITIES: Programs and projects.

An **INPUT** is the resources used to produce activity and output.

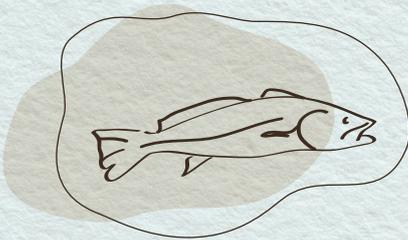
Strategic Objectives

The following key strategies guide Glenelg Hopkins CMA in establishing and undertaking its core business and activities.



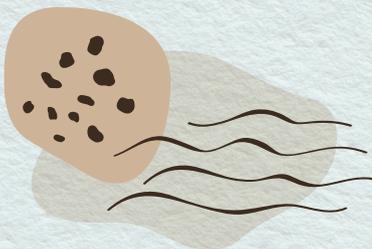
PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR A HEALTHY CATCHMENT

- Foster active partnerships to strengthen the region's capacity in natural resource and waterway management;
- Strengthen structures and processes for community engagement in regional strategies and plans;
- Promote adaptation and knowledge-sharing to build stakeholder capacity and resilience.



INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

- Facilitate and coordinate the management of catchments in an integrated and sustainable way;
- Target investment to enhance biodiversity, sustainable production and community resilience;
- Advise on natural asset condition trends to inform resource allocation and management actions.



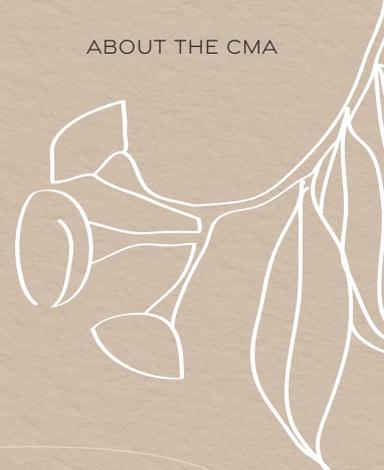
EFFECTIVE WATERWAY AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

- Manage environmental water effectively;
- Provide efficient business processes for statutory functions;
- Provide regional leadership in floodplain management;
- Be a respected and accountable organisation.



RECRUIT AND SUSTAIN A PROFESSIONAL, PROACTIVE, AND INNOVATIVE WORKFORCE

- Deliver investment programs effectively and efficiently;
- Manage business risk conservatively;
- Optimise funding for NRM projects by minimising corporate overheads.



Focus Areas

RESILIENT AND LIVEABLE CITIES AND TOWNS

Glenelg Hopkins CMA continues to support and promote this focus in our region through collaboration and partnerships with respect to river restoration along the Merri, Hopkins and Grange Burn rivers; activities in line with Wannon Water; local governments and local communities.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL VALUES AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has been working with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Corporations for over 15 years, recognising and supporting important cultural values in the water sector. A mid-term review of the Glenelg Hopkins Aboriginal Partnership Framework was undertaken in 2022-23. The Framework will be updated in early 2023-24, and partnerships with Traditional Owners will continue to be strengthened.

CLIMATE CHANGE

This is a key focus for the next 5 years. We have a commitment to mitigating risks and collaborating with agencies, landowners and Traditional Owners.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA

RECOGNISES RECREATIONAL VALUES

Glenelg Hopkins CMA will work towards delivering shared benefits along the Glenelg River and engaging with the community to identify recreational opportunities along the region's waterways and we will support communities and agencies developing social and recreational outcomes for well-being in line with the Victorian Government's Water for Victoria Strategy through the Regional Waterway Strategy. The CMA will work with agencies and community to develop recreational infrastructure along key waterways to improve recreational access to water.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Glenelg Hopkins CMA will build on this through the Catchment Partnership Agreement, Glenelg Hopkins Partnership and Engagement Strategy and the Regional Catchment Strategy. We will also support, strengthen and collaborate for improved catchment management performance through Vic Catchments.

WATERWAY AND CATCHMENT HEALTH

This is a foundational responsibility of Glenelg Hopkins CMA. Our regional priorities align strongly with the Victorian Government's priorities. Through investment received, the CMA will continue to provide leadership to improve the health of waterways, catchments, biodiversity and coastal and marine areas.

LEADERSHIP, DIVERSITY AND CULTURE

Glenelg Hopkins CMA will continue to position itself over the next five years as a provider of high-quality professional services, an employer of choice and an example to the region in line with its Diversity and Inclusion Plan.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

We will help improve agricultural productivity in line with the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy by building strong community commitment to sustainable farm practices, through supporting innovative practice and technology, and by implementing irrigation development guidelines in partnership with rural water corporations.

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA at a glance

THE GLENELG HOPKINS REGION LIES SOUTH OF THE GREAT DIVIDING RANGE IN VICTORIA'S SOUTH WEST.

The region is renowned for its scenic beauty, dramatic coastline and rich biodiversity. The boundaries of the region include marine and coastal waters out to the state limit of three nautical miles.

The region is characterised by flat volcanic plains in the south, while the Grampians, Dundas Tablelands and Central Highlands are dominant in the north.



With a favourable climate and rich soils, 81% of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA region is used for agriculture.

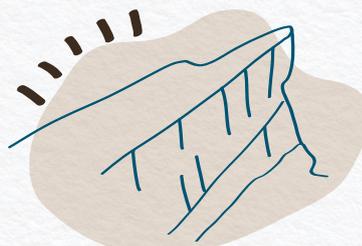
Based mostly on sheep, dairy, cattle, cereals and oil seeds, the region has the 3rd highest value of agricultural production of any NRM region in the nation and the highest in Victoria. The Glenelg Hopkins region contains natural features that are of national and international significance.

The Glenelg and Hopkins rivers and their tributaries with the smaller rivers and creeks in the Millicent and Portland basins are great locations for recreational water use including boating and fishing.



BUDJ BIM HERITAGE LANDSCAPE

Incorporating Budj Bim National Park and the Budj Bim UNESCO World Heritage Landscape recognised for its Aboriginal cultural values.



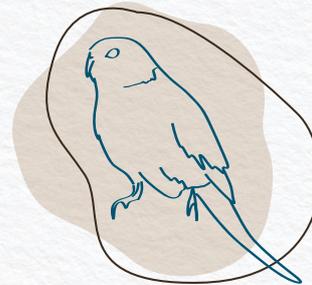
GARIWERD (GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK)

The Grampians National Park is home to a huge array of wildlife and landscapes alongside a rich and continuing Aboriginal history.



GLENELG RIVER

The lower section is heritage-listed due to its environmental significance.



IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS (IBA)

Between Port Fairy and Warrnambool, and on the Discovery Bay coast, we support a non-breeding population of the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot, a breeding population of the vulnerable Hooded Plover, and some significant migratory shorebird populations.



WESTERN DISTRICT RAMSAR LAKES

Recognised as internationally important under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Lake Bookar is the only one of nine in the complex that occurs in the Glenelg Hopkins region.



32 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ANIMAL SPECIES

Including the Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*), the Bent-wing Bat (*Miniopterus bassanii*) and the Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*).



GLENELG ESTUARY AND DISCOVERY BAY RAMSAR SITE

Stretching more than 22,000ha and known for its rare dunes and a variety of threatened plant, waterbird and fish species.



74 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES

Including the Wrinkled Cassinia (*Cassinia rugata*), the Western Purple Diuris (*Diuris daltonii*) and the Langi Ghiran Grevillea (*Grevillea montis-cole subsp. brevistyla*).



DISCOVERY BAY MARINE NATIONAL PARK

Situated 20km west of Portland, this park covers 3,050ha and consists of basalt reefs and a high diversity of intertidal and shallow subtidal invertebrates such as rock lobster and abalone. It is an important site for whale watching.



THE REGION

Also has the Lower Glenelg National Park and Cobboboonee National Park and Forest.

Catchment Condition & Management Report Overview

CATCHMENT CONDITION

This section of the Annual Report provides an assessment of the condition of the region's environment, and a reflection on the likely impact of annual scale actions, events and observed change within the previous year, and over the previous five years. A key purpose of monitoring changes in the operating context is to help identify opportunities for adapting and changing the way we manage the environment.

The report is structured in line with the state-wide outcomes framework that links the regional outcomes sought by catchment communities, to the high-level policy outcomes of the Victorian and Australian Federal Governments.

ACCOUNTABILITY

This report fulfils the requirements for CMAs under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* to report on the condition and management of land and water resources.

FUTURE CASTING – A KEY INPUT TO ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

The Annual Report provides a key step in the adaptive management process. This improved approach to reporting asks whether the evidence acquired during the year, and over recent years, has lessons for future action.

RECOGNISES THE EVENT NATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Importantly, the reporting format encourages us to engage with the episodic and event-based nature of our environment. An annual scale trend is generally not measurable. Trends build up over many years and, even then, they are very difficult to find within the episodes of droughts and floods.

EVIDENCE BASED REPORTING

The report is structured to encourage a reflection on the year based on available evidence. It enables CMAs to use the relevant evidence at hand; to use what is most useful in the regional context. The consistency is in the process and the assessment, rather in the data only.

Builds on regional expertise and can accommodate community input and collective reporting.

Because the report can use a variety of information, it opens the potential to involve our catchment partners and include community members or groups in the assessment. Improved integrated catchment management will be dependent on opportunities to share information and collaborate on planning and reporting.

TRANSPARENCY

As much as possible, the reporting format attempts to provide a transparent path between the evidence, the assessment, and the CMA that is making the assessment. There is no incorrect assessment answer - it is the responsibility of the catchment manager to assess based on the best available evidence.

HOW TO INTERPRET / USE THIS TEMPLATE

The condition assessment for each theme describes the level of confidence or concern that catchment managers have in the future of the regional environment.

The assessment is based on a set of state-wide indicators adopted from the RCS outcomes framework, augmented with regionally specific indicators, which have been selected based on criteria including availability and quality of data, and the linkages back to regional and policy outcomes. As much as possible, the reporting format attempts to provide a transparent path between the evidence and the assessment.

Table 1 provides the assessment criteria to complete the first and second columns of a trend rating (2022-23, and over the last 5 years in Table 3).

Table 1: Assessment criteria for annual condition reporting

TREND	TREND RATING	DESCRIPTION
The trend is the change over time in the indicator, which could be an environmental asset, a pressure, or a management activity. The trend is assessed against the direction required to contribute to the achievement of regional outcomes.	Positive 	The indicator is moving in a positive direction and is expected to have a positive impact.
	Neutral 	The indicator is a neutral state, where movements may be significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact.
	Concerned 	The indicator is moving in a negative direction and is expected to have a detrimental impact.
	Unknown 	The trend is unknown.

Table 2: provides the assessment criteria for the third column of condition in Table 3 detailing the condition rating at the time of the report.

CONDITION	CONDITION RATING	DESCRIPTION
<p>Where appropriate, a condition rating is provided that is based on the current state of the theme. A condition rating is based on assessments of the assets, pressures and management activities represented by the theme.</p> <p>The assessment is based on available science and expert advice, as well as evidence gained during the preceding year.</p>	Good 	The condition is classified as good.
	Moderate 	The condition is classified as moderate.
	Poor 	The condition is classified as poor.
	Not applicable 	A condition rating is not applicable for this indicator.
	Unknown 	The condition for this indicator is not known and/or assessable.

Table 3 provides the assessment template to be completed including trend, condition and summary comment columns, and Water, Land, Biodiversity, Coasts and Marine, Community and Integrated Catchment Management rows. A positive assessment indicates a level of optimism about future direction, while a concerned assessment indicates a more pessimistic view of the direction of environmental change.

Table 3: Regional catchment condition summary

THEME	TREND		CONDITION	SUMMARY COMMENT
	2022-23	Over last five years		
WATER	Positive 	Concerned 	Poor 	<p>Summary rating: Poor</p> <p>High rainfall in 2022-23 resulted in high river flows and inflows into wetland systems and estuaries, leading to a positive trend for 2022-23. The longer term trends, however, are of lower inflows into all systems and continued loss of wetlands, leading a 5-year trend rating of ‘concerned’, and a condition rating of ‘poor’.</p> <p>Rivers - Rating: Poor</p> <p>A significant climatic step-change occurred in SE Australia in 1997. The 2022/23 trend for inflows was positive, due to most river systems exceeding pre-1997 averages in 2022 (116 mm) due to floods. The inflows over the past 5 years remain below pre-1997 levels however, resulting in a negative trend and condition rating for this indicator.</p> <p>Water quality is poor in many systems for many parameters and has been trending down due to intensification of agricultural land use. The Glenelg River may be showing signs of a slight improvement over the past 5 years. This may be related to management activities (e.g., environmental flows, riparian fencing) however it will be some time before we can determine if this improvement is sustained.</p> <p>Wetlands - Rating: Poor</p> <p>Victoria’s Land Cover Time Series shows significant long-term and ongoing loss of seasonal and perennial wetlands. However, high rainfall and floods in 2022 saw most wetlands at least partially filled, resulting in a positive trend for 2022-23.</p>

THEME	TREND		CONDITION	SUMMARY COMMENT
	2022-23	Over last five years		
WATER	Positive 	Concerned 	Poor 	<p>Estuaries - Rating: Neutral</p> <p>This rating reflects high inflows during late 2022 and early 2023, which reset estuary water quality profiles, and contributed to more natural hydrological patterns at our region’s intermittently-closed estuary mouths. Long term pressure on our estuaries remains concerning, however due to increased coastal development, reduced freshwater inflows, intensified agricultural pressure and climate change scenarios.</p> <p>The Estuary Entrance Management Systems was implemented across our 6 intermittently-closed estuaries, and used to guide 4 ARMO’s under safe, appropriate and effective conditions. Other management activities included community education and awareness raising, and the re-introduction of structural fish habitat (e.g. fish hotels, woody debris) in Hopkins and Portland Basins through Commonwealth Fisheries Habitat Restoration program.</p> <p>Funding through DEECA’s CERMP Victorian Estuary Resilience and Hazard Risk Reduction project will contribute to the mitigation of coastal hazard risk for a diversity of estuary values including public infrastructure and critical assets, and help reduce the need for artificial estuary openings.</p> <p>GHCMA is working closely with Deakin University through Victoria’s Resilient Coast funding (DEECA) to map and assess the health and distribution of estuarine seagrass meadows in the Glenelg Hopkins region, and identify trends, drivers of change, and suitable sites for restoration.</p> <p>Groundwater - Rating: Poor</p> <p>The LTWRA showed that some watertables in the Glenelg Hopkins had declined over the medium-long term, resulting in a trend rating of Concerned. Representative bores indicate that despite floods in 2022, watertables have not risen significantly, and generally remain well below pre-millennium drought levels.</p>



THEME	TREND		CONDITION	SUMMARY COMMENT
	2022-23	Over last five years		
LAND	Neutral 	Neutral 	Moderate 	<p>Summary rating: Moderate</p> <p>This rating is based on limited availability of annual data. This rating considers annual measure of green ground cover of above 90%, reduced conversion of pasture to cropping, and positive preliminary assessment of Soil Benchmarking Project data.</p> <p>The region consistently achieves average green cover above 90%, with only 7.4% of the catchment indicating exposed soils in 2022 (including urban areas). This is consistent with the trend over the last 5 years (and over the longer term) of decreasing exposed soils, which is a positive trend.</p> <p>Stabilisation in land use change from permanent pasture to cropping is encouraging for protection of soils. Concern remains with use of paddock scale burning to manage large stubble loads rather than the more favourable method of windrow burning.</p> <p>There is some room for optimism since good winter rainfall will see farmers enter summer and the forecasted El Nino with high levels of stored feed.</p> <p>Preliminary assessment of 2023 Benchmarking Soil Condition, soil test data from 100 monitoring sites reveals no significant increase in soil acidity or salinity levels from 2019 test data.</p> <p>Markets for agricultural commodities remain strong despite recent falls in prices of red meat and wool. Response of regional dairy farmers to milk price offers from milk processors, has been positive.</p> <p>Discontinuation of the release Value of Agricultural Commodities data at NRM regional level (Australian Bureau of Statistics), has removed a highly insightful indicator of regional primary production.</p> <p>To support farmers in moving to more sustainable farm practices, in 2022/23, Glenelg Hopkins CMA worked with community partners to hold 31 workshops on a variety of topics (e.g., improving and protecting soil, promoting soil biology and carbon, regenerative agriculture, climate change adaptation, whole farm plan creation and revision), with a cumulative audience of 720 farmers and farm service providers.</p>
BIODIVERSITY	Positive 	Concerned 	Poor 	<p>The condition of biodiversity in the region is considered poor. This rating reflects a lack of any significant changes to areas under permanent protection or land use change resulting in benefits to biodiversity, as well as continuing threats to biodiversity such as the impact of pest and weed invasion and continued land clearing and development.</p> <p>The trend is deemed concerning and is predominantly due to the combined pressures of land use change, land clearing and development, hydrological change, changing fire regimes, and pest and weed invasion.</p> <p>Over the last 12 months, work has continued to improve and protect biodiversity across the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the hydrological restoration of 4 wetlands has resulted in an increase in food and habitat availability for the Australasian Bittern; 739ha of Critically Endangered ecological communities on the Victorian Volcanic Plains have been protected through improved land management; over 100 ha of Southeastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo feeding habitat was revegetated and 60ha of habitat was permanently protected using conservation covenants; over 100ha of feral pig control was undertaken in the Budj Bum Cultural Landscape. <p>Despite these significant successes for individual species and communities, existing threats and pressures continue to overwhelm current investment and are exacerbated by the changing climate.</p>

Table 3: Regional catchment condition summary

THEME	TREND		CONDITION	SUMMARY COMMENT
	2022-23	Over last five years		
COASTS & MARINES	Concerned 	Concerned 	Poor 	<p>Overall, the condition of coastal and marine environments in the Glenelg Hopkins region has been assessed as unknown during 2022/23. This rating reflects a lack of unit measurements.</p> <p>The trend for 2022/23 is considered concerning, with evidence of significant pressures. Likewise, the 5-year trend is defined as Concerned. Among the pressures are climate change, development pressures (e.g. \$4m coastal infrastructure development in the Port of Warrnambool, and the C69 Planning Amendment at Port Fairy for residential development).</p> <p>GHCMA is continuing to use the decision logic developed under the “Tide Trigger Levels for Sea Level Rise Adaptation Pathways” project in development proposals along the coast.</p> <p>GHCMA is working closely with Deakin University to monitor coastal impacts and erosion.</p> <p>Additional work specific to management of estuaries is reported in the Water section of this report.</p>
COMMUNITY	Neutral 	Positive 	Moderate 	<p>Community volunteering rates in regional Victoria (24.3%) are higher than metropolitan Melbourne (17.6%) and South West Victoria has the highest rates of volunteer engagement (28.6%). Following a downturn in participation as a result of COVID-19, community groups and organisations are reporting a return to previous levels of engagement. This has contributed to the trend ratings assigned.</p> <p>Landcare group health scores have remained consistent over the last five years with an average score of 3.48 out of 5. The lowest score (3.29) in 2021 is believed to be related to no landcare grants program that year, and low survey participation. Conversely the highest group health score (3.89) in 2022 is attributed to the resumption of Landcare Grants and a return to pre-COVID participation setting, interpreted as a positive trend over the past 5 years.</p> <p>A neutral trend rating and moderate condition rating for 2022/23 reflects that most groups surveyed report that they are rolling along or moving forward. In 2023 despite two landcare groups reinvigorating, 10 groups reported that they were 'struggling along'.</p> <p>Glenelg Hopkins CMA has two formal agreements in place with Traditional Owner Groups for planning and management partnership activities. In partnership with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Corangamite CMA, GHCMA has established a CMA / EMAC Partnership Officer role. Preliminary discussions were held on updating the GMTOAC / CMA Partnership Agreement.</p>
INTEGRATED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT	Neutral 	Positive 	Moderate 	<p>Over the past five years, the GHCMA has invested significantly in partnership work and development. In 2023 there was a slight increase in the number of formal partnership agreements. There are currently 13 partnerships formalised through Agreements or MOUs. A further two Partnership Agreements have recently been negotiated and are in draft form for review.</p> <p>The Catchment Partnership Agreement was reviewed, and the Terms of Reference updated.</p> <p>The Glenelg River Environmental Water Advisory Group and GHCMA Community Advisory Group have actively met and supported integrated Catchment Management in the region.</p> <p>The Victorian Government released Water is Life. The GHCMA is committed to self-determination principles and engagement in catchment management is guided by relevant Country Plans and aspiration statements.</p> <p>The positive 5-year trend reflects in part that there has been a continuous increase in community and land manager interest in environmental stewardship programs. Formal stewardship agreements have increased over the last five years.</p>

BIODIVERSITY CASE STUDY:

Stewardship program under the Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery project

LANDOWNER JOSH PRICE

When Josh Price bought his farm in 2012, he knew a large wetland was in the middle of it.

'We bought the property because of the land. The wetland put some people off, but we always wondered what we could do with it. Some people would drain and crop it, but I didn't want to do that because I knew there was birdlife and other wildlife.'

The Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP) Recovery Project targets a range of critically endangered communities and species including Seasonal herbaceous wetlands (freshwater) of the Temperate lowland plains. A combination of incentive programs, monitoring, ecological and traditional burning, seed collection and species reestablishment, and knowledge and awareness raising

activities have improved the condition of these now rare wetlands.

Josh said it was fortunate he was keen to protect the wetland because he learned through the project that '... if we'd gone in with a boom spray and started spraying, we could have been in Court as it was already on a list of protected wetlands.'

Although Josh has considerable experience and knowledge of grazing management, he has learned a lot from his involvement in the project. 'My grazing management plan has changed a lot. I'll now only graze specific times of year to minimise damage to local species. I am also much more careful with things like chemical spraying around the wetland.'

'Now I understand the significance of specific wetlands and what they mean for the local environment, birds, plants and bugs. I've learned a lot about birdlife..... The project really opened up my eyes.'

In terms of legacy, Josh said 'It is both massive and permanent. There is now a lifetime covenant on the wetlands, meaning it will be protected forever.' I'm not a greenie; I'm still a conventional farmer. I still make a living off the land, but if this my way of protecting the wetlands, I'm happy to do it.'



LEFT: Wetlands at Waimari South property (photo taken by Josh Price)

Regional actions and achievements reporting

The table below presents the total outputs achieved for 2022-2023.

Output achievements for 2022-2023

OUTPUT	TARGET	ACTUAL		
		State	Commonwealth	Total
I. STRUCTURAL WORKS				
1.1 Channel (km)				
1.2 Water storage (no.)				
1.3 Pump (no.)				
1.4 Irrigation structure (ha)				
1.5 Waterway structure (no.)	83	21	39	60
1.6 Terrestrial structure (no.)				
1.7 Terrestrial feature (no.)	5			
1.8 Monitoring structure (no.)	33	35		35
1.9 Fence (km)	15	58	56	115
1.10 Visitor facility (no.)		3		3
1.11 Road (km)	1	0.1		0.1
1.12 Crossing (no.)	2			
2. ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS				
2.1 Vegetation (ha)	102	86	440	526
2.2 Weed control (ha)	1,811	812	2,670	3,482
2.3 Pest animal control (ha)	5,802	181	2,712	2,893
2.4 Over-abundant wildlife control				
2.5 Threatened species response (no.)	2		6	6
2.6 Emergency species response (no.)				
2.7 Soil treatment (ha)				
2.8 Earth works (no.)		19	5	24
2.9 Rubbish removal (ha)	10	31		31
3. MANAGEMENT SERVICES				
3.1 Grazing (ha)	52		773	773
3.2 Agricultural practices (ha)	360			
3.3 Water (no.)	14	11		11
3.4 Fire regime (no.)	170		349	349
4. PLANNING AND REGULATION				
4.1 Approval and advice (no.)	254	762		762
4.2 Management agreement (no.)	45	25	85	110
4.3 Assessment (no.)	884	387	131	518
4.4 Engagement event (no. participants)	3,421	4,083	2,403	6,486
4.5 Partnerships (no.)	33	35	2	37
4.6 Plan (no.)	29	20	4	24
4.7 Publication (no.)	235	118	68	186
4.8 Information management system (no.)	9	82		82

BIODIVERSITY CASE STUDY:

Acoustic monitoring the Australasian Bittern, and the importance of volunteers

Bradley Clarke-Wood of Birdlife Australia says that Australasian Bitterns are a 'cool bird, but not the flashiest of birds' which is why he was surprised and pleased with the number of people who rallied to participate in listening surveys.

The Australasian Bittern has a distinctive call, a 'boom' which is said to resemble that of the mythical Bunyip, said to live in swamps and waterholes.

Birdlife Australia coordinated the collection of Bittern surveys across the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment, coordinating listening surveys and

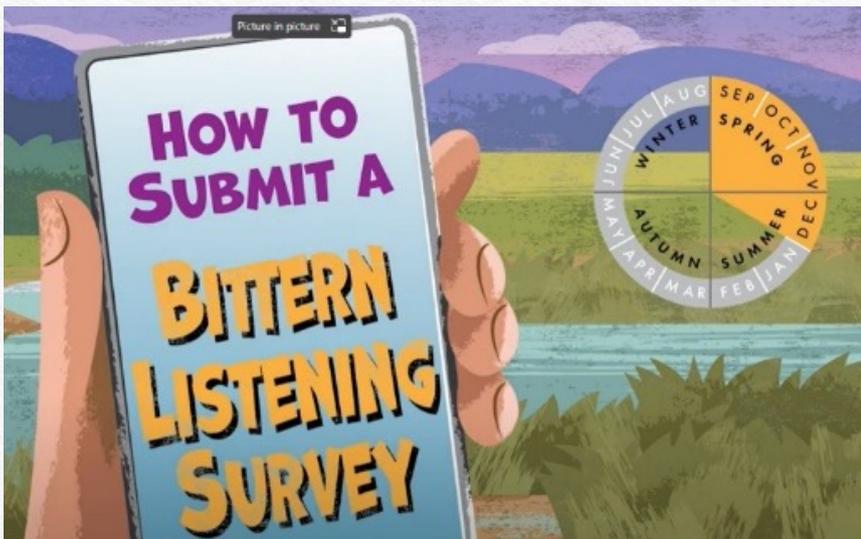
promoting the opportunity to help with Bittern research to the wider community.

'We worked with the Traditional Owners, Gunditj Mirring, developing a short presentation with instructions on how to deploy the acoustic monitors.

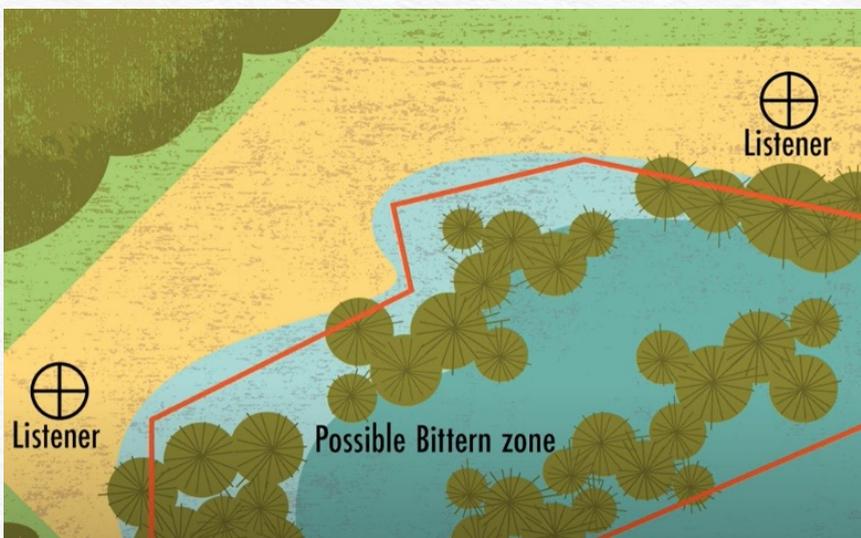
We worked with Nature Glenelg Trust and, of course, with local volunteers. They helped identify Bittern habitats, conducted listening surveys and kept the project's momentum. With input from volunteers, we got very good at narrowing down how and when we should record.'

According to Bradley, 'There is an increasing sense of pride in having Bitterns in the area, and many landholders want to know if they have Bitterns on their property and what they can do to better accommodate them.'

Volunteers were essential to the success of the project. 'Many of our volunteers started from knowing nothing about Bitterns to becoming Bittern experts.'



LEFT: Stills from How to submit a BirdLife Australia survey in Birdata | Bittern Listening Survey, BirdLife Australia video



EVENT CASE STUDY:

Wattle seed Event - 18 & 19 November 2022

In November 2022, the the Gazette Land Action Group, supported by Glenelg Hopkins CMA, organised a two-day event, 'Integrating Wattle Seed Production into Farming'. With additional sponsorship from Southern Grampians Shire, Arборline and Cassinia Environmental, the event was attended by 56 growers, processors and end-users of wattle seed, the majority from outside the region and many from interstate, including food nutrition researchers from University of Queensland. The program included a tour of four farms, a dinner and a seminar.

The event was a focal point for people from everywhere who were starting out in wattle seed. Morna Semmens from the Gazette Land Action Group said everyone was impressed by the

quality and diversity of the speakers and especially blown away by the four-course dinner, which featured dishes made partly or entirely from native products, with most flavoured with different varieties of wattle seed.

'The meal was mind-blowing. I was sitting with investment bankers who said you would pay \$250 a head for something of that calibre in the city.' Morna said the farm tours were a great way for people to see what wattle tree farming is about and a fantastic way to build connections.



ABOVE: Gundjitmara Elder Claudette Lovett opened the Wattle Seed Dinner with an inspiring 'Welcome to Country'.



ABOVE: Around 40 wattle seed growers, processors and end-users attended the farm tour.



ABOVE: Peter Cunningham, Wattle Seed Australia, demonstrates wattle seed harvesting at Cassinia Environmental wattle orchard at Tarrington.

Our Governance, Our People, Our Business

Board structure and purpose

A Board of seven community representatives governs Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

Directors are appointed by the Minister following a public call for people with skills and catchment experience.

The Chairperson, Antony Ford was re-appointed in October 2021 until 30 September 2025 (inclusive).

The Board is responsible and accountable for the good governance, strategic direction, and effective and efficient operation of the organisation. Key objectives for the Board are to:

- Represent the interests of the community in natural resource management;
- Achieve integrated catchment management (as measured by improvement in resource condition);
- Act as a steward for the natural resource base;
- Create effective partnerships;
- Develop appropriate action plans and support their implementation, including development of targets;
- Provide regional leadership in natural resource management.

The current governance structure places a strong emphasis on community engagement and partnerships to help achieve agency outcomes.

OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD

Chairperson, Antony Ford has over 40 years' experience in Australian and international agribusiness, 28 of those at senior executive level, and on the boards of food manufacturing, horticultural, aquaculture, and other institutions. In the recent past he has been a CEO, senior executive, and board member in production horticulture and large fin fish aquaculture.

Tony is also involved in industry development, strategic planning, and action delivery across the region.

Deputy Chairperson, Dr Michelle Casanova has a PhD in Botany and is Principal at Charophyte Services, a consultancy aimed at providing best practice, scientific research, information, and assessment concerning water plants and wetlands. Michelle lives and works on a fine-wool merino and cropping farm near Lake Bolac. She was voted Deputy Chairperson at the November 2021 Full Board meeting.

Damein Bell is a Gunditjmara traditional owner and a Fellow with the Royal Society of Victoria and an Atlantic Fellow. Damein is a Board Director with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Gunditj Mirring Services Pty Ltd.

Chris Giles was the Chief Executive Officer at Portland District Health until 11 April 2022, and has considerable experience as a leader and manager of Regional, rural, and remote public health services.

She holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Health Management, along with nursing and midwifery qualifications. Chris has a background in agriculture and currently has an interest in an irrigation property, with experience in sheep, dairy, and poultry farming. She has held the elected role at a Shire, and has been working with local Traditional Owners on Land and Sea Management and Health initiatives.

Professor Gerry Quinn holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Zoology, a PhD in Marine Biology, and has completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course. Before his retirement from Deakin University, he was Chair in Marine Biology and served a term as Head of the Warrnambool Campus. He has also been part of several statutory bodies, advisory committees, and government public entities. Gerry's research background has focused on the ecology of marine, freshwater and estuarine habitats and the effect of human activities on the environmental condition of these ecosystems.

Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil is a dairy farmer and teacher who has a Master of Education degree and a Certificate IV in Governance. She has previously worked in diverse fields such as banking and finance, venue management, and sports development across four countries. Karrinjeet has communication and collaboration skills and is a creative thinker.

Celia Tucker holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Parks, Recreation, and Heritage) and lives and works as a sheep and broadacre cropping farmer with her husband at Willaura North. She is interested in both the environmental and agricultural sectors, and has previously worked at both local and state government level in these fields.

The farming enterprise Celia and her husband operate places a strong focus on protecting and enhancing the natural capital and biodiversity to ensure profitability for future generations. She serves on several committees and is an active 'Landcarer', supporting other primary producers in her community who wish to undertake Landcare work.

GHCMA Board Attendance for 2022-2023.

NAME	NUMBER OF MEETINGS	EXPLANATORY NOTE
Antony Ford	9/9	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2017 Appointed Board Chairperson 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2017 Re-appointed to the Board and as Chairperson 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2021 Re-appointed to the Board and as Chairperson 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2025
Damein Bell	6/9	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019 Re-appointed 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2023
Michelle Casanova	8/9	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019 Re-appointed 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2023
Christine Giles	7/9	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2021 Re-appointed to the Board 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2025
Gerry Quinn	9/9	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2019 to September 2023
Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil	9/9	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2019 to September 2023
Celia Tucker	9/9	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2019 to September 2023



Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk committee consisted of the following members in 2022-2023:

- **Brian Densem** (Independent Chair)
- **Karrinjeet Singh Mahil** (Director)
- **Michelle Casanova** (Director)
- **Gerry Quinn** (Director)
- **Richard Ainio** (Independent)
- **George Ambrose** (Independent)

The Audit and Risk Committee comprises three Board Directors and three independent representatives.

Independent representatives are the Committee Chair, Brian Densem, Richard Ainio and George Ambrose. Richard and George were appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee by the Board in August 2022, with their first meeting in November 2022.

Board representatives from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 were Directors Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil, Gerry Quinn and Michelle Casanova.

The Executive Officer role is held by a non-voting staff member, Executive Manager – Corporate Services.

The responsibilities of the Audit and Risk Committee are set out in Standing Direction 3.2.1.1. Key responsibilities of the Committee are to:

- Review and report independently to the Board on the annual report and all other financial information published by Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority

- Assist the board in reviewing the effectiveness of Glenelg Hopkins CMA's internal control environment covering:
 - Effectiveness and efficiency of operations
 - Reliability of financial reporting, and
 - Compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Determine the scope of the internal audit function and ensure its resources are adequate and used effectively, including coordination with the external auditors, and
- Oversee the effective operation of the risk management framework.

In 2022-23, the committee met four times. Attendance of committee members is detailed in the table below.

Audit and Risk Committee Attendance for 2022-2023.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEMBER	AUG 2022	NOV 2022	FEB 2023	MAY 2023	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	% OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Brian Densem	1	1	1	1	4/4	100%
Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil	1	0	1	1	3/4	75%
Michelle Casanova	1	1	1	1	4/4	100%
Gerry Quinn	1	1	1	0	3/4	75%
Richard Ainio	N/A	1	1	1	3/3	100%
George Ambrose	N/A	1	1	1	3/3	100%

Remuneration and Performance Committee

From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, the Chair of the Remuneration and Performance Committee was Board Chairperson, Antony Ford. Directors Damein Bell and Chris Giles are members.

The Committee’s primary objective is to advise the Board on senior staff appointments, remuneration, and performance evaluation.

In particular, the committee advises the Board on:

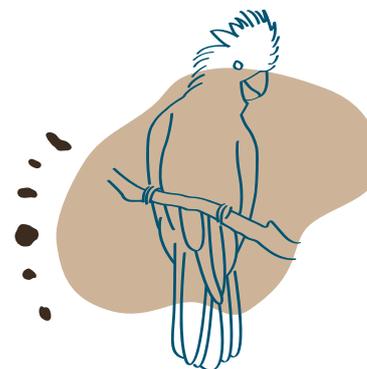
- Appropriate executive level remuneration and employment agreements
- Specification of CEO performance measures
- Evaluation of CEO performance, and
- Succession planning.

In the last twelve months, the Remuneration and Performance Committee have focused on CEO performance evaluation and contract negotiations for some of the members of the executive team.

There is no Executive Officer for this Committee, however CEO, Adam Bester and Executive Manager – Corporate Services, Faye Lee attend via invitation.

Administration support is provided by Executive Office Coordinator, Janette Albert.

There were five scheduled meetings for the Board Remuneration and Performance Committee: September 2022, October 2022, December 2022, January 2023, and June 2023.



Remuneration and Performance Committee Attendance for 2022-2023.

REMUNERATION AND PERFORMANCE MEMBER	SEPTEMBER 2022	OCTOBER 2022	JANUARY 2023	JUNE 2023	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	% OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Antony Ford	0	1	1	1	4	80
Damein Bell	1	1	1	1	5	100
Chris Giles	1	1	1	1	5	100

Community Advisory Group

The Glenelg Hopkins Community Advisory Group is a valued advisory body that helps connect the community and CMA.

The term of the former group came to an end in October 2022, and a new group was recruited following an Expression of Interest process.

14 members were recruited, with a strong representation across the Glenelg Hopkins region in terms of geography, skills, and experience.

A group induction was held in Hamilton in December, alongside the Glenelg River Environmental Water Advisory Group, and a new Chair has been appointed. The group also attended a Cultural Awareness session led by EMAC in Dunkeld in April 2023.

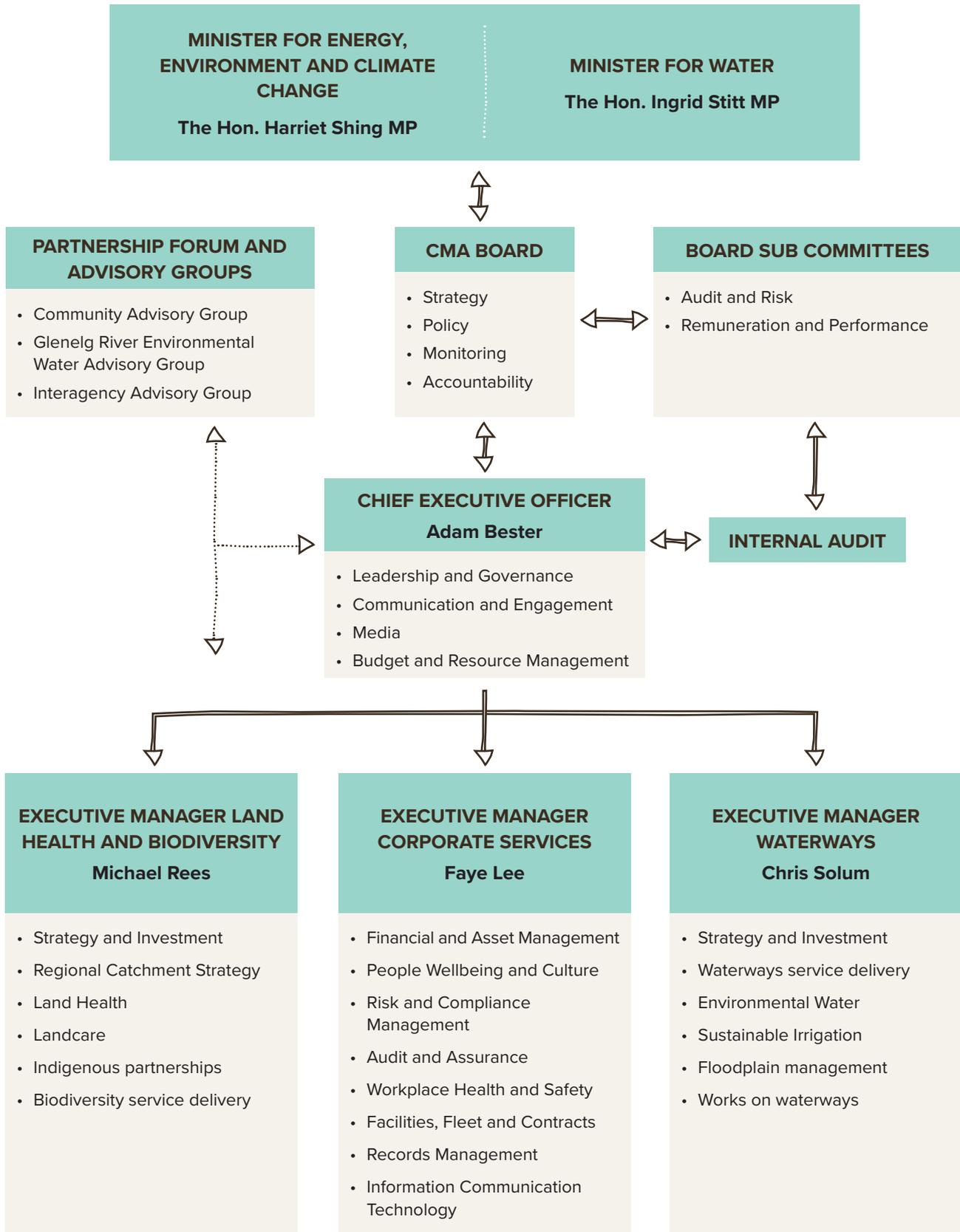
The Community Advisory Group will continue to play an important role in providing feedback to the CMA on strategic planning, adaptive management, reporting of catchment achievements, and identifying current NRM and Integrated Catchment Management issues and opportunities.

The group also helps implement the CMAs Catchment Partnership Agreement and is supported by funding from the Victorian Government's Our Catchments Our Communities program.

BELOW: Cultural Awareness session in Dunkeld with Board and Community members, hosted by Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation

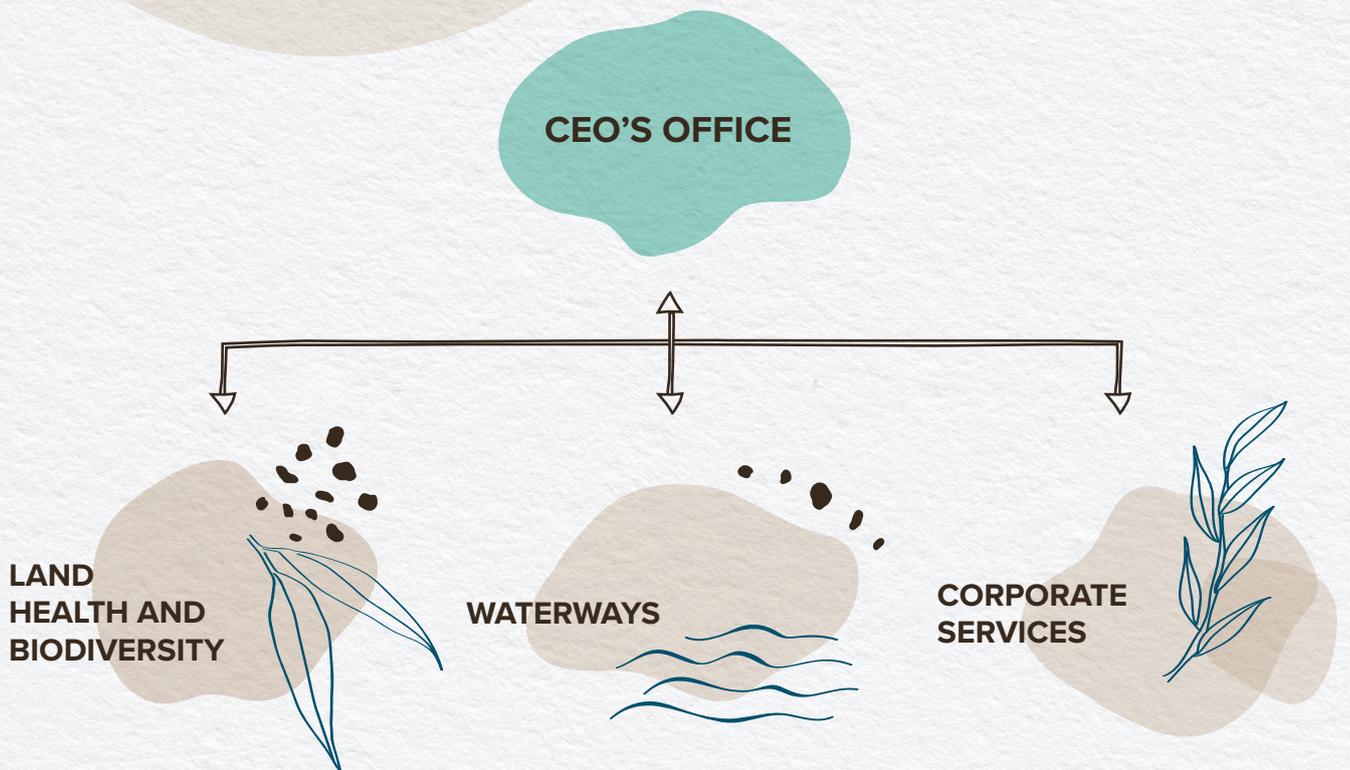


Organisational Chart



Reporting Requirements

There are three core programs within the CMA: Land Health and Biodiversity, Waterways, and Corporate Services. The CEO's Office oversees the flow of activity within, and between these programs, manages the relationship with the Board, and provides cross-organisational support relating to our involvement and reputation.



We deliver a diverse range of environmental and community based Natural Resource Management (NRM) programs, projects, and partnerships aimed to continually improve the condition of the region's land and biodiversity. These activities include sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation, Indigenous partnerships, and Landcare and community grants programs.

The development and implementation of the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS), coordination of strategy and investment, and monitoring and reporting are also delivered within this area of our business.

We provide sustainable, comprehensive, and integrated management of rivers, wetlands, and terrestrial habitats. Our focus here is to preserve and enhance the region's ecological health through planning and delivery of targeted and effective rural and urban works.

We work to protect and enhance the coastal areas of the catchment while providing opportunities for sustainable use and development along the coast. We also undertake regulated and unregulated water planning and monitor environmental flow and surface water.

Statutory services include referrals, advice, and licenses associated with waterway and floodplain management. CMA's floodplain management includes strategic and statutory planning, flood response planning, flood investigations, and flood and drought recovery programs.

We guide and support every department with high-level, integrated, and efficient business systems that enable the CMA to meet its statutory and legislative requirements and achieve positive NRM outcomes.

Corporate Services includes a range of functions such as finance, risk and business compliance, human resources, workplace health and Safety, records management, fleet management, administration, information communication technology, and associated business support.

COMMUNITY CASE STUDY:

Cultural awareness

GHCMA's Social Procurement Strategy, along with the Aboriginal Partnership Framework has prioritised cultural awareness engagement across the organisation and supports a more structured and strategic way to provide opportunities for staff to learn more about local Aboriginal heritage. This has led to an increased need for cultural training and inductions, which in turn has supported increased capacity within TO groups to provide training.

Over the last few years there has been a significant change in the way this training has been arranged. In the beginning GHCMA led training events but now we are able to directly engage TO groups to run training using their own facilities.

As we have become a more culturally aware, GHCMA has begun to support and encourage other agencies and organisations in the region to improve their cultural awareness through the direct procurement of cultural awareness training. In February of this year staff from Southern Grampians Shire Council joined CMA staff on a tour of the Tyrendarra and Kurtonitj Indigenous Protected Areas which make up part of the World Heritage-listed Budj Bim Cultural Landscape.

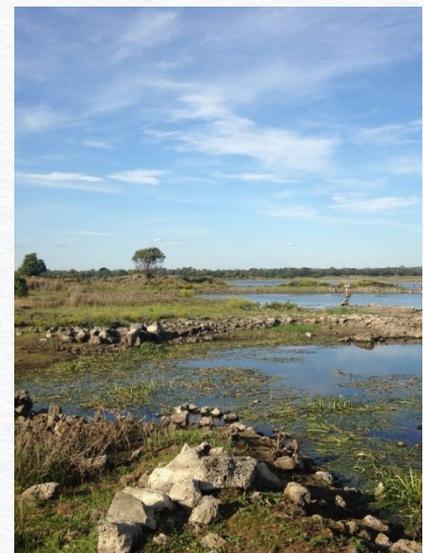
It included discussion about traditional practices such as hunting and burning, modern and historical Gunditjmara land management, and a tour of some ancient Gunditjmara eel channels, which have been dated at more than six thousand years of age.



ABOVE: Fish channel system and traps at Budj Bim.



ABOVE: Aaron from Windamara Budj Bim Rangers leads the tour.



ABOVE: Fish traps at Budj Bim.

WORKFORCE DATA STATISTICS

The following table discloses the head count and full-time staff equivalent (FTE) of all active public service employees of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA employed in the last full pay period in June (2023) of the current reporting period, and in the last full pay period in June (2022).

Details of employment levels in June 2022 and 2023.

	JUNE 2023:							
	ALL EMPLOYEES		ONGOING			FIXED TERM AND CASUAL		
	Number (headcount)	FTE	Full-time	Part-time	FTE	Full-time	Part-time	FTE
Number (headcount)			Number (headcount)	Number (headcount)		Number (headcount)		
GENDER								
Men	23	21.6	10	4	13.2	5	4	8.4
Women	24	20.2	6	9	12.6	3	6	7.6
Self-described	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
AGE								
15-24	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
25-34	6	5.7	3	0	3	1	2	2.7
35-44	14	11.5	3	4	5.6	2	5	5.9
45-54	18	16	5	7	10.5	4	2	5.5
55-64	7	6.7	5	2	6.7	0	0	0
65+	2	1.9	1	0	1	0	1	0.9
CLASSIFICATION								
G	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
H	2	1.7	0	0	0	0	2	1.7
I	1	0.9	0	0	0	0	1	0.9
J	10	9.2	5	1	5.9	1	3	3.3
K	23	20	9	11	17.3	1	2	2.7
L	7	6	3	1	3.6	1	2	2.4
Exec	4	4	0	0	0	4	0	4
Total employees	48	42.8	17	13	26.8	8	10	16

JUNE 2022:

ALL EMPLOYEES		ONGOING			FIXED TERM AND CASUAL		
Number (headcount)	FTE	Full-time	Part-time	FTE	Full-time	Part-time	FTE
		Number (headcount)	Number (headcount)		Number (headcount)	Number (headcount)	

GENDER

Men	27	24.7	11	7	16.5	5	4	8.2
Women	27	20.9	6	8	11.5	3	10	9.4
Self-described	1	1.0	1	0	1.0	0	0	0.0

AGE

15-24	2	1.4	0	0	0.0	1	1	1.4
25-34	10	7.8	3	2	4.2	2	3	3.6
35-44	14	11.3	4	4	6.7	1	5	4.6
45-54	20	17.8	6	7	11.6	3	4	6.2
55-64	8	7.5	5	2	6.5	1	0	1.0
65+	1	0.9	0	0	0.0	0	1	0.9

CLASSIFICATION

G	1	1.0	0	0	0.0	1	0	1.0
H	4	3.0	0	0	0.0	1	3	3.0
I	1	0.9	0	0	0.0	0	1	0.9
J	12	10.7	6	1	6.9	1	4	3.8
K	25	20.2	9	12	17.8	0	4	2.4
L	7	6.0	3	2	4.3	1	1	1.7
Exec	5	4.8	0	0	0.0	4	1	4.8
Total employees	55	46.7	18	15	29.0	8	14	17.7

People & Culture

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

In early 2021, we recognised that planning for a new 4-year agreement was being impacted by the events of 2020, and we sought a 12-month roll-over agreement.

Staff and Management agreed to this approach. We worked with DEECA and Industrial Relations Victoria (IRV) to prepare the agreement for approval by the Fair Work Commission. The roll-over expired on 31 October 2022.

Glenelg CMA started negotiating a new 4-year agreement in 2022 with DEECA, DTF and IRV along with the Bargaining Representatives. It is anticipated that the negotiation will be finalised by the 3rd quarter of 2023.

SERVICE AWARDS

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA values the contribution and dedication of its long service staff members.

The following staff reached service milestones during 2022-2023

- David Nichols (20 years)
- Jacinta Hendriks (15 years)
- Laura Haeusler (10 years)

REWARD AND RECOGNITION

Individual staff and teams were also recognised by their colleagues for their positive contributions towards the organisation's achievement of its goals and objectives.

A total of 27 reward and recognition nominations were approved for outstanding effort by staff who performed above-and-beyond their roles.

LONG-TERM STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

2022-2023 has seen the continued development of our first 'People and Culture Strategy' – a comprehensive, overarching, measurable plan that prioritises our people over five years from 2023-2028. It will include People & Culture Action Plan, Workforce Plan and Diversity & Inclusion Plan that set out our commitment to embed the best possible programs, systems and solutions to enable everyone to enhance their job satisfaction and work together to deliver our business goals.

This is a long-term commitment by us, in us. The purpose is to enable growth, engagement, and well-being of our people through a skilled and adaptable workforce that effectively addresses complex environmental challenges.



LEFT: Laura Haeusler, Jacinta Hendriks and David Nichols

Workforce Inclusion Policy

Glenelg Hopkins CMA actively promotes flexible working arrangements. We report the number annually.

Outlined below is a comparison of our progress in the current and previous years.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PLAN INITIATIVE	MEASURE	ACTUAL PROGRESS IN 2022-2023	ACTUAL PROGRESS IN 2021-2022
Promote the availability of flexible working arrangements	Number of staff with flexible working arrangements	94%	100%

Notes:

- Includes part-time employment, purchased leave, and individual flexibility arrangements. Sourced from workforce data.
- Reported as a percentage against headcount as per 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 from workforce data.
- The internal policy and procedure to enable working remotely was updated in March 2020 to allow better access for staff. This has now been included in the measure of flexible working arrangements.
- Whilst 100% was achieved in 2021-22, this was partly attributed to employees working flexibly and remotely due to COVID-19. This flexibility remains available to staff, and we continue to track this measure as employees return to the office.

PUBLIC SECTOR VALUES AND EMPLOYMENT PRINCIPLES

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has introduced policies and practices consistent with the Victorian Public Sector Commissions (VPSC) employment standards. They provide for fair treatment, career opportunities, and the early resolution of workplace issues.

We have advised employees on how to avoid conflicts of interest, how to respond to offers of gifts, and how the CMA deals with misconduct. We provide online training for new employees, and in-person training three-yearly, for all staff on Workplace Obligations, with a focus on Public Sector values, employment principles, and the VPSC Code of Conduct.

Public sector values (section 7, PAA)

The public sector values are: Responsiveness, Integrity, Impartiality, Accountability, Respect, Leadership, and Human Rights.

Public sector employment principles (section 8, PAA)

Public entities are required to have in place employment processes that will ensure that:

- Employment decisions are based on merit;
- Public sector employees are treated fairly and reasonably;
- Equal employment opportunity is provided;
- Human rights as set out in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities are upheld;
- Public sector employees have a reasonable avenue of redress against unfair or unreasonable treatment.

Codes of conduct and standards issued by the VPSC, include:

- The Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees;
- The Conflict of Interest Policy Framework and the Gifts Benefits and Hospitality Policy Framework.

For further information, please refer to the VPSC’s website (www.vpsc.vic.gov.au).

Glenelg Hopkins CMA actively promotes flexible working arrangements

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY (WHS)

Workplace Health and Safety Policy Statement

The CMA continues to strengthen our understanding of Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) to achieve positive safety outcomes for all workers and workplaces. We are proactive in enhancing the health and safety of our people. We are committed to:

- Ensuring the provision of a safe workplace for our employees, contractors, and subcontractors who operate in the CMA workplace, as far as reasonably practicable;
- Implementing a robust WHS management system;
- Continuing to identify, manage and eliminate WHS risks for all our people;
- Supporting the early, safe, and productive return to work of ill or injured staff;
- Engaging with staff and their representatives to support a positive culture of awareness and responsibility for safety and continuous safety improvement;
- Inspiring employees to support and use a range of programs to care for their physical and mental health, safety, and wellbeing;
- Providing training and guidance to staff relative to their roles and responsibilities;
- Coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating health and safety initiatives and activities as part of the CMA's WHS management system.

Achievement of the CMA's WHS objectives depends on the cooperative efforts of everyone concerned. We all have a responsibility to keep our workplace safe and to help foster a positive safety culture.



HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE 2022-2023

3
meetings

4
designated
work groups

4
health and
safety reps

3
management
reps

3
people and
culture reps

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY ACHIEVEMENTS 2022-2023

- A robust Workplace Health & Safety reporting platform;
- Implementation of effective WHS Policies and Procedures;
- Commitment to participate in the Victorian Chamber's Mental Health Comply Program;
- Completion of WHS Action Plan;
- Provision of a whole of organisation workshop focusing on health, safety and wellbeing.

“SAFETY FIRST” CAMPAIGN:

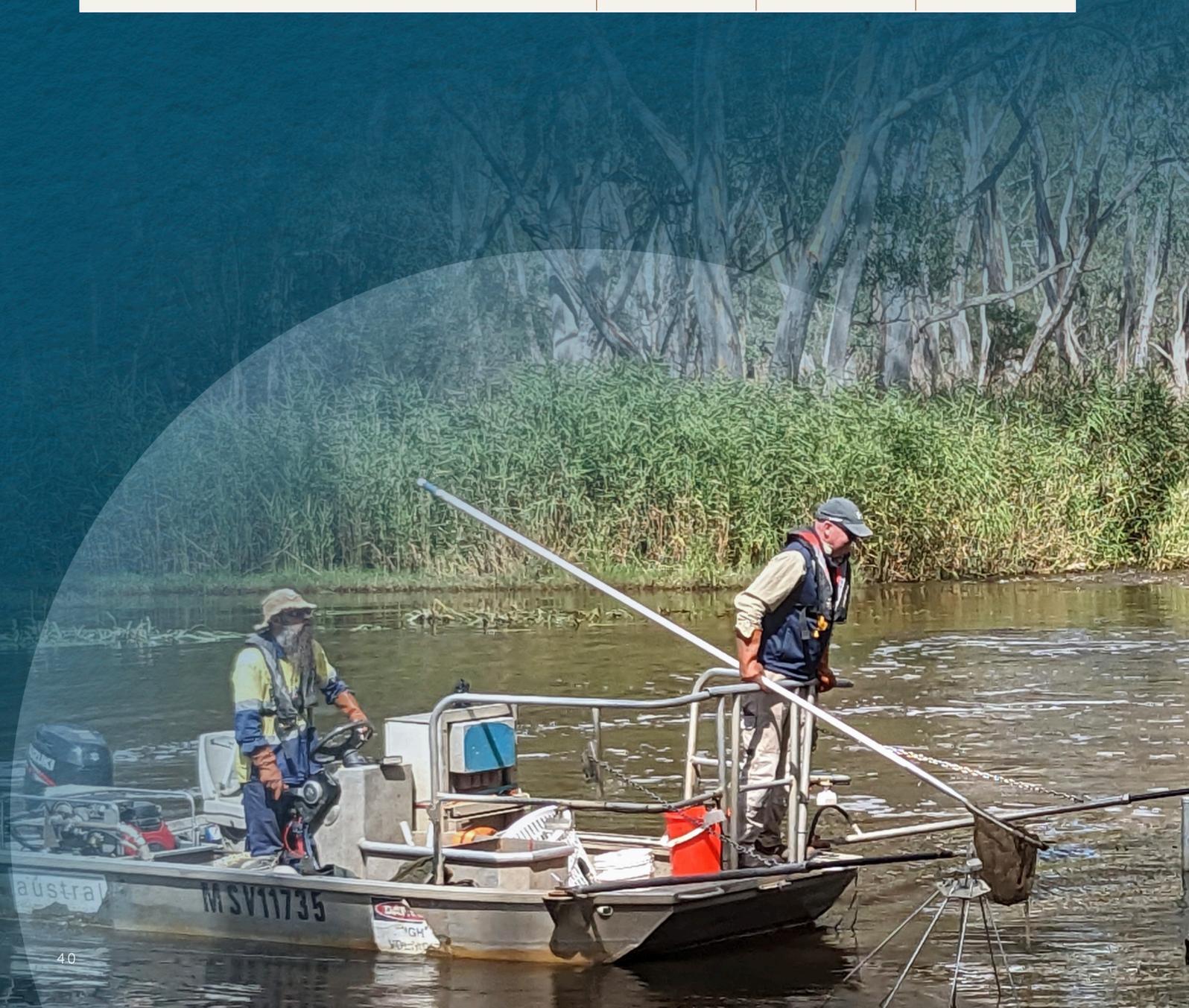
Implementation of a “Safety First” Campaign to provide employees and management with topical information on a variety of health and safety matters, keeping WHS at the forefront of our daily activities.

COMMENCED: June 2022

NO. POSTS 2022/23: 20



EOY 2022-23 METRICS	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Hazards reported, no.	13	3	5
Rate per 100 FTE	35	6	12
Total incidents, no.	15	13	16
Rate per 100 FTE	41	28	37
Incidents requiring first aid and/or further medical treatment, no.	4	7	6
No. of Standard claims	3	2	1
Rate per 100 FTE	8.2	4	2
No. of lost time Standard claims	1	3	1
Rate per 100 FTE	2.7	6	2
Fatality claims	0	0	0
Average cost per Standard claim	\$735	\$744	\$763
Percentage of claims with RTW plan <30 days	85%	66%	0%



Compliance with Relevant Legislation

EXECUTIVE OFFICER DATA

An Executive Officer (EO) is defined as an executive under Part 3 of the PAA, or a person to whom the Victorian Government's Policy on Executive Remuneration in Public Entities applies.

All figures reflect employment levels at the last full pay period in June of the current year and corresponding previous reporting year.

The definition of an EO does not include a statutory office holder or an Accountable Officer.

No EO disclosure is required for fewer than three executives.

LOCAL JOBS FIRST

Local Jobs First Act 2003

There were no tenders over \$1,000,000 entered into by Glenelg Hopkins CMA during 2022-2023.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING EXPENDITURE

In the 2022-2023 reporting period, Glenelg Hopkins CMA's expenditure on government campaigns did not exceed \$100,000.

CONSULTANCY EXPENDITURE

Details of consultancies (valued at \$10,000 or greater)

In 2022-2023, there were 28 consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater.

The total expenditure incurred during 2022-2023 in relation to these consultancies was \$991,620 (excl. GST). Details of individual consultancies are outlined on Glenelg Hopkins CMA's website at:

www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

Details of consultancies (valued at less than \$10,000)

In 2022-2023, there were 22 consultancies engaged during the year, where the total fees payable to the consultants was less than \$10,000.

The total expenditure incurred during this period in relation to these consultancies was \$72,013 (excl. GST).



SOCIAL PROCUREMENT

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA undertook capability and awareness activities to support our first Social Procurement Strategic Plan.

While the three prioritised SPF objectives guide our procurement delivery, the CMA is committed to pursuing any opportunities to advance social and sustainable outcomes for Victorians.

To address the Opportunities for Victorian Aboriginal people objective, we:

- Commenced tracking expenditure with Victorian Government suppliers that provide opportunities for Aboriginal people in the region.

To address the Sustainable Victorian regions objective, we:

- Commenced tracking our expenditure amongst local businesses in our region.

To address the Sustainable Victorian social enterprises and Aboriginal business sectors objective, we:

- Commenced tracking the number of Victorian Aboriginal businesses engaged.

The majority of individual procurement activities undertaken in 2022/23 fell within the 'below threshold' band of Victoria's Social Procurement Framework where social procurement approaches are encouraged but not mandatory.

The CMA will commence reporting on its progress against the SPF Objectives using the reporting metrics detailed in the table above in subsequent annual reports.

EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT

In 2022- 23, the Glenelg Hopkins CMA did not activate Emergency Procurement in accordance with the requirements of government policy and accompanying guidelines

ICT EXPENDITURE

- For the 2022-23 reporting period, Glenelg Hopkins CMA had a total ICT expenditure of \$324,078 with the details as shown below:
- ICT expenditure refers to Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's costs in providing business enabling ICT services within the current reporting period. It comprises Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure
- NON-BAU ICT expenditure \$28,453 relates to extending or enhancing Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's current ICT capability
- BAU ICT Expenditure \$295,625 is all remaining ICT expenditure which primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

MAJOR CONTRACTS

Glenelg Hopkins CMA did not award any major contracts during 2022/23.

A major contract is a contract entered into during the reporting period valued at \$10m or more.

OVERALL SOCIAL PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES 2022-23	
Number of social benefit suppliers engaged during the reporting period:	11
Total amount spent with social benefit suppliers (direct spend) during the reporting period (\$ GST exclusive):	\$625,944
Total number of mainstream suppliers engaged that have made social procurement commitments in their contracts with the Victorian Government:	375
Total number of contracts that include social procurement commitments:	\$7.7m



LEFT: Sapling Creek upgrade

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OPERATION

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is considered a 'Government Agency' under the terms of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. Accordingly, Glenelg Hopkins CMA complies with the procedures prescribed under which members of the public may gain access to information held by agencies.

Requests for information should be forwarded to the:

Freedom of Information Officer,
Janette Albert, PO Box 502 or
79 French Street Hamilton 3300,
or via foi@ghcma.vic.gov.au,
accompanied by an application
fee of \$31.80.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA received no requests for information during 2022-2023 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* from community members, and there were no resulting appeals to VCAT.

COMPLIANCE WITH BUILDING ACT 1993

Glenelg Hopkins CMA owns one and operates two regional offices located in Hamilton and Warrnambool.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA complies with the *Building Act 1993*, Building Regulations 2018, and the National Construction Code, and retains a copy of occupancy permits required for its owned building. Glenelg Hopkins CMA conducts and reports on scheduled inspections of its owned building to ensure compliance with building standards and regulations. The internal control system allows Glenelg Hopkins CMA to satisfactorily manage risks.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA's offices in Hamilton and Warrnambool (Deakin University) conformed with building standards during 2022/23. There were no major works, emergency orders or building orders issued in relation to the buildings.

COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY POLICY

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure that where services compete, or potentially compete, with the private sector, any advantage arising solely from their government ownership be removed if it is not in the public interest.

Government businesses are required to cost and price these services as if they were privately owned. Competitive neutrality policy supports fair competition between public and private businesses and provides government businesses with a tool to enhance decisions on resource allocation.

This policy does not override other policy objectives of government and focuses on efficiency in the provision of service. Glenelg Hopkins CMA continues to comply with the requirements of the Competitive Neutrality Policy.

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES ACT 2012

Compliance with the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (PD Act) enables people to report improper conduct by public officers and public bodies.

The Act aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make these disclosures and protect them when they do.

WHAT IS A PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE?

A Public Interest Disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct about a public officer or a public body.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is a public body for the purposes of the Act.

What is improper or corrupt conduct?

Improper or corrupt conduct involves substantial

- Mismanagement of public resources
- Risk to public health or safety or the environment
- Corruption.

The conduct must be criminal in nature or a matter for which an officer could be dismissed.

How do I make a Public Interest Disclosure?

You can make a Public Interest Disclosure about Glenelg Hopkins CMA or its board members, officers, or employees by contacting IBAC on the contact details provided.

Please note that Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority is not able to receive Public Interest Disclosures.

How can I access Glenelg Hopkins CMA's procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action?

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has established procedures to protect someone from detrimental action in reprisal for making a Public Interest Disclosure about Glenelg Hopkins CMA or its employees. You can access Glenelg Hopkins CMA's procedures on its website at: www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

Contacts

Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) Victoria

Address: Level 1 North Tower,
459 Collins Street, Melbourne
Victoria 3000

Mail: IBAC, GPO Box 24234,
Melbourne Victoria 3001

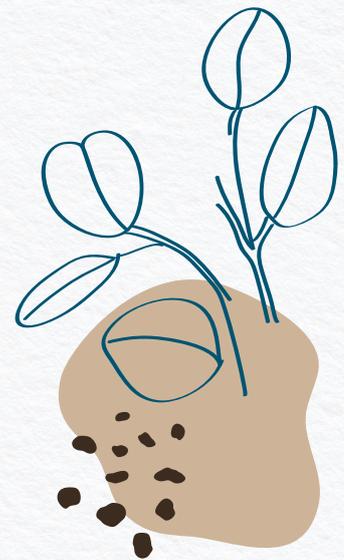
Internet: www.ibac.vic.gov.au

Phone: 1300 735 135

Email: See the website above for the secure email disclosure process, which also provides for anonymous disclosures.

Additional Information Available on Request

- Glenelg Hopkins CMA has the following documents available as specified in the *Financial Management Act 1994*, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*:
- Publications produced by Glenelg Hopkins CMA and the places where the publications can be obtained;
- Declarations of pecuniary interests by relevant officers. These are treated as confidential documents;
- Major external reviews;
- Changes in prices, fees, charges, rates, and levies charged;
- Major research and development activities undertaken;
- Overseas travel undertaken, including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit;
- Major promotional, public relations and, marketing activities undertaken by the CMA to develop community awareness of the organisation and its services;
- Assessments and measures to improve the OH&S of employees;
- Statement of Industrial Relations within the CMA, including time lost through industrial accidents and disputes;
- List of major committees sponsored by the entity, the purposes of each committee, and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved;
- Details of all consultancies and contractors including those engaged, services provided, and expenditure for each engagement.



Disclosure of Grants and Transfer Payments

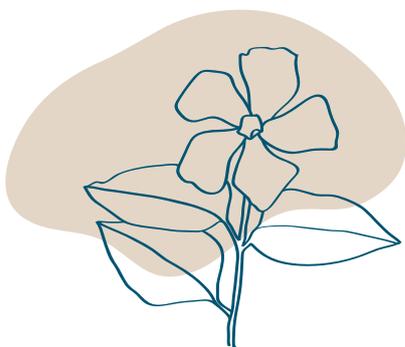
The CMA delivers a devolved grants program for Landcare and environmental volunteer groups, and networks on behalf of the Victorian Government. This is part of a coordinated and consistent approach across the State, and routinely attracts many applications from across the Glenelg Hopkins region. The 2022-23 program was vastly oversubscribed with applications totaling over \$600,000. The CMA received \$303,250 from DEECA.

The 2022/23 grant program was conducted from June to August 2022. Two categories of grants were available - project grants (<\$20,000) and administration support grants (\$500 for groups). There were 67 applications submitted from groups/networks to the value of \$613,000.

Administration grants were provided to 31 groups/networks, totaling \$15,500. Project grants were allocated to 17 groups to the value of \$255,534. Group projects are due for completion on the 30 November 2023.

- 34.23 km fencing;
- 77 ha revegetation;
- 36,993 trees planted;
- 12 field days/workshops;
- 8 publications.

GROUP NAME	TOTAL
BASALT TO BAY LANDCARE NETWORK INC.	\$8,774.00
WANDO RIVER LANDCARE GROUP INC.	\$16,625.00
TARRAGAL LANDCARE GROUP	\$16,625.00
FRIENDS OF THE FORGOTTEN WOODLANDS INC.	\$5,934.00
FRIENDS OF THE GREAT SOUTH WEST WALK INC	\$10,494.36
MAKING A DIFFERENCE (MAD) FOR THE MERRI INC	\$6,050.00
UPPER HOPKINS LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP INC	\$16,202.80
UPPER HOPKINS LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP INC	\$18,026.25
HAMILTON TO COLERAINE LANDCARE GROUP INC	\$15,128.59
LYNE AND CAMP CREEK LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP	\$19,368.00
CULLA/PIGEON PONDS LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP	\$16,625.00
HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB	\$18,266.00
MOORALLA LANDCARE GROUP	\$19,999.00
THE GRINGE IMPROVEMENT GROUP	\$9,750.00
UPPER MT EMU CREEK LANDCARE NETWORK	\$18,110.00
GAZETTE LAND ACTION GROUP	\$19,579.00
WANDO RIVER LANDCARE GROUP INC.	\$19,977.00



Environmental Reporting

The data reported in this section is in line with the reporting requirements under Financial Reporting Direction 24 *Reporting of environmental data by government entities*. The environmental data captured in 2020-21 is used as a baseline for reporting of these indicators.

The operational boundary for this reporting period includes its fleet of 13 vehicles plus its 3 offices as outlined below:

- Warrnambool (Office) - Princes Hwy Warrnambool - space leased from Deakin University.
- Hamilton (Office) - 79 French Street, Hamilton - owned property.
- Hamilton (Shed) - 55 Portland Road, Hamilton - leased.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is committed to tackling the challenge of climate change by promoting regional climate change adaptation and mitigation programs and achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions for its own operations.

To support this commitment, Glenelg Hopkins CMA has commenced work on calculating its emission baseline and in the first half of 2023-24 will develop and formalise a Sustainability Action Plan.

The plan will set a target to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions for its own operations. This target will take

into account an expanded organisational boundary that includes emissions from Scope 1 (from sources that Glenelg Hopkins CMA owns or controls), Scope 2 (indirect emissions from Glenelg Hopkins CMA's use of electricity from the grid) and Scope 3 (indirect emissions from sources Glenelg Hopkins CMA does not control but does influence).

To support the achievement of the target, Glenelg Hopkins CMA has commenced calculating its emissions across these three scope areas and is developing a Sustainability Action Plan to provide the "plan" for reaching carbon neutrality. Future annual reports will include measurement of the full emissions profile plus progress of actions against its Sustainability Action Plan.

For the 2022-23 period, Glenelg Hopkins CMA had no newly completed owned office buildings or substantial tenancy fit outs.

ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

The period from 2020-21 to 2022-23, electricity consumption increased in line with a return to the office post COVID-19.

The leased office at the Deakin Campus Warrnambool has 100% Green Power, accounting for the offsets in the below table.

With the development of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Sustainability Action Plan CMA, a range of initiatives to reduce and offset the emissions of its Offices will be included including the movement of its Hamilton Office to 100% Green Power. Glenelg Hopkins CMA notes that future electricity usage will likely increase as it transitions its fleet to electric vehicles.

TRANSPORTATION

Glenelg Hopkins CMA's fleet comprised of 13 vehicles. The vehicles are used for the purpose of employees commuting between offices, to meetings with other stakeholders and in going out into the field for site inspections and meeting landholders. As such it needs a mixture of vehicles suited to main road and offroad driving that can carry equipment.

The number of vehicles at Glenelg Hopkins CMA has increased from 12 in 2021-22 to 13 in this reporting period due to a review of vehicle requirements and transitioning back to normal operations post COVID-19.

Through the implementation of its Sustainability Action Plan, Glenelg Hopkins CMA will look to transition its entire fleet across to electric by 2030.

INDICATOR	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
Total electricity consumption (MWh)	59.1	54.5	41.9
Purchased Electricity – Consolidated			
Glenelg Hopkins CMA Offices ^(a)	32.0	35.5	22.8
Not directly purchased but from outside the organisation (MWh)			
Glenelg Hopkins CMA Offices ^(b)	27.1	19.0	19.1
Total electricity offsets (MWh)	27.1	19.0	19.1
Greenpower ^(c)	27.1	19.0	19.1

Notes:

- (a) Hamilton ofzfices. Data is taken directly from energy supplier invoices.
- (b) Warrnambool offices. Data is estimated based upon total usage received from lessors and proportioned based upon floor space. The electricity for the leased shed at 55 Portland Road is not available through invoices and is immaterial.
- (c) 100% Green Power at Warrnambool.

INDICATOR	2022-2023	%	2021-2022	%	2020-2021	%
Number and proportion of vehicles	13	100	12	100	12	100
Passenger vehicles ^(a)	13	100	12	100	12	100
Petrol	3	23	3	25	3	25
Diesel/Biodiesel	10	77	9	75	9	75

Notes:

- (a) Passenger vehicles include all leased Glenelg Hopkins CMA vehicles used for its operations.

REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

REDUCE ENERGY USE*

kWh used per annum

54,522 in 2021-2022

59,113 in 2022-2023

8% 2022-2023

% Comparing one year prior

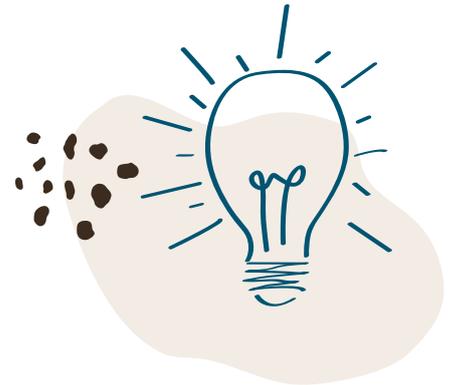
kWh used per FTE per annum

1,168 in 2021-2022

1,383 in 2022-2023

16% 2022-2023

% Comparing one year prior



*Note estimate for Warrnambool Office now based upon data provided from Deakin and based upon % floor space.

REDUCE PAPER USE

White A4 reams per annum

25 in 2021-2022

41 in 2022-2023

39% 2022-2023

% Comparing one year prior

White A4 reams per FTE

0.54 in 2021-2022

0.96 in 2022-2023

44% 2022-2023

% Comparing one year prior

White A3 reams per annum

3 in 2021-2022

3 in 2022-2023

0% 2022-2023

% Comparing one year prior

White A3 reams per FTE

0.06 in 2021-2022

0.07 in 2022-2023

8% 2022-2023

% Comparing one year prior

INCREASE PAPER RECYCLING

240 Litres recycled per annum

9 in 2021-2022

9 in 2022-2023

0% 2022-2023

% Comparing one year prior

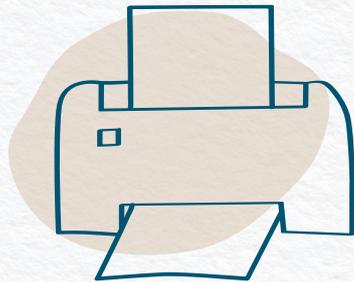
240 Litres recycled per FTE

0.19 in 2021-2022

0.21 in 2022-2023

8% 2022-2023

% Comparing one year prior



REDUCE TONER CARTRIDGES

Toner Cartridges consumed per annum

1 in 2021-2022

2 in 2022-2023

50% 2022-2023

% Comparing one year prior

Toner Cartridges consumed per FTE

0.02 in 2021-2022

0.052 in 2022-2023

54% 2022-2023

% Comparing one year prior

REDUCE FUEL USE

Fleet size

12 in 2021-2022

13 in 2022-2023

8% 2022-2023

% Comparing one year prior

Litres fuel consumed per annum

21,946 in 2021-2022

29,330 in 2022-2023

25% 2022-2023

% Comparing one year prior

Litres fuel consumed per vehicle

1,829 in 2021-2022

2,256 in 2022-2023

19% 2022-2023

% Comparing one year prior



REDUCED WATER CONSUMPTION*

KLs consumed per annum

118 in 2021-2022

359 in 2022-2023

67% 2022-2023

% Comparing one year prior

Overall KLs consumed per FTE

2.53 in 2021-2022

8.41 in 2022-2023

70% 2022-2023

% Comparing one year prior



*Note estimate for Warrnambool Office now based upon data provided from Deakin and based upon % floor space. 2021-2022 figures were impacted by COVID-19 as a result of office closures.



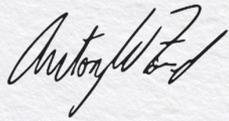
Financial Reports

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE ATTESTATION STATEMENT	50
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FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE ATTESTATION STATEMENT

I Antony Ford on behalf of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority certify that the Glenelg Hopkins CMA has complied with the applicable Standing Directions of the Minister of Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority Audit and Risk Committee verifies this.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antony Ford', written in a cursive style.

Antony Ford
Chairperson
Glenelg Hopkins CMA
25 September 2023

How this report is structured

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority has presented its audited general purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 in the following structure to provide users with information about the Authority's stewardship of resource entrusted to it.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Comprehensive operating statement

Balance sheet

Cash flow statement

Statement of changes in equity

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. About this report

The basis on which the financial statements have been prepared and compliance with reporting regulations

2. Funding delivery of our services

Income recognised in respect of Government contributions and other income sources

2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

2.2 Income from transactions

3. The cost of delivering services

Operating expenses of the Authority

3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

3.2 Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies

4. Key assets available to support output delivery

Land, buildings, works assets, plant and equipment, office furniture and equipment, motor vehicles, and intangible assets

4.1 Total property, plant and equipment

4.2 Intangible assets

5. Other assets and liabilities

Other key assets and liabilities

5.1 Receivables

5.2 Payables

6. Financing our operations

Cash flow information, commitments for expenditure and carry forward project funding

6.1 Lease Liabilities

6.2 Cash flow information and balances

6.3 Commitments for expenditure

6.4 Carry forward project funding

7. Risks, contingencies and valuation judgements

Financial risk management, contingent assets and liabilities as well as fair value determination

7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

7.3 Fair value determination

8. Other disclosures

Additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report

8.1 Ex-gratia expenses

8.2 Reserves

8.3 Responsible persons

8.4 Remuneration of executive officers

8.5 Related parties

8.6 Remuneration of auditors

8.7 Subsequent events

8.8 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

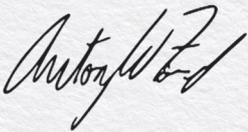
DECLARATION IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority has presented its audited general purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 in the following structure to provide users with information about the Authority's stewardship of resource entrusted to it.

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2023 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2023.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 25 September 2023.



Antony Ford
Chairperson



Adam Bester
CEO and Accountable Officer



Faye Lee
Chief Finance & Accounting Officer

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (the authority) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2023 • comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • cash flow statement for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies • declaration in the financial statements. <p>In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the authority in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Other Information	<p>The Board is responsible for the "other information" included in the authority's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023. The other information in the Annual Report does not include the financial report and my auditor's reports thereon. My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information included in the Annual Report. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.</p> <p>In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a materially misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.</p>
Board's responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Board of the authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the authority's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
28 September 2023



Paul Martin
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT
for the financial year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income from transactions			
Government contributions	2.2.1	13,762,399	10,546,790
Interest	2.2.2	372,811	26,553
Other income	2.2.3	223,059	237,606
Total income from transactions		14,358,269	10,810,949
Expenses from transactions			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	4,821,368	4,902,963
Depreciation and amortisation	4.1.2	154,573	177,508
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	5,229,203	3,347,399
Interest expense	6.1.2	1,989	2,987
Other operating expenses		719,089	569,940
Total expenses from transactions		10,926,222	9,000,797
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		3,432,047	1,810,152
Net result		3,432,047	1,810,152
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net result			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	8.2	-	-
Comprehensive result		3,432,047	1,810,152

Note: (i) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

as at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	6.2	13,148,211	10,717,465
Receivables	5.1	1,411,380	282,429
Prepayments		2,756	-
Total financial assets		14,562,347	10,999,894
Non-financial assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	1,155,211	1,169,326
Total non-financial assets		1,155,211	1,169,326
Total assets		15,717,557	12,169,220
Liabilities			
Payables	5.2	674,524	415,910
Lease liabilities	6.1	76,637	74,400
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	1,210,226	1,354,786
Total liabilities		1,961,387	1,845,096
Net assets		13,756,170	10,324,124
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		9,592,681	6,160,635
Physical asset revaluation surplus	8.2	1,006,543	1,006,543
Contributed capital		3,156,946	3,156,946
Net worth		13,756,170	10,324,124

Note: (i) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from government		12,636,203	11,359,833
Interest received		372,811	26,553
Goods and services tax received from the ATO (ii)		-	21,686
Other receipts		223,059	237,605
Total receipts		13,232,073	11,645,677
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and employees		10,421,381	8,469,601
Goods and services tax Paid to the ATO (ii)		250,991	-
Interest and other costs of finance paid		1,989	2,987
Total payments		10,674,361	8,472,588
Net cash flows from operating activities	6.2.1	2,557,712	3,173,089
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of non-financial assets		(122,560)	(136,402)
Proceeds from the sale of non-financial assets		-	10
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities		(122,560)	(136,392)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Repayment of principal portion of lease liabilities (iii)		2,237	(112,385)
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities		2,237	(112,385)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		2,437,389	2,924,312
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		10,717,464	7,793,152
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6.2	13,154,853	10,717,464

Notes:

(i) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

(ii) GST received from the Australian Taxation Office is presented on a net basis.

(iii) The Authority has recognised cash payments for the principal portion of lease payments as financing activities; cash payments for interest portion as operating activities consistent with the presentation of interest payments and short-term lease payments for leases and low-value assets as operating activities.

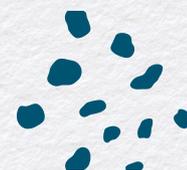
The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the financial year ended 30 June 2023

	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS \$	PHYSICAL ASSET REVALUATION SURPLUS \$	CONTRIBUTED CAPITAL \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at 1 July 2021	4,350,483	1,006,543	3,156,946	8,513,973
Net result for the year	1,810,152	-	-	1,810,152
Balance at 30 June 2022	6,160,635	1,006,543	3,156,946	10,324,125
Net result for the year	3,432,047	-	-	3,432,047
Balance at 30 June 2023	9,592,682	1,006,543	3,156,946	13,756,172

Note: (i) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 1 ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA) is a government authority of the State of Victoria, established on 1 July 1997 by the state government.

Its principal address is:

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
79 French Street
Hamilton VIC 3300

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities is included in the Report of operations, which does not form part of these financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are in Australian dollars and the historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the note associated with the item measured on a different basis.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in preparing these financial statements, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the prior year.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates are disclosed in the notes under the heading: 'Significant judgement or estimates', and relate to:

- employee benefit provisions (Note 3.1.2);
- accrued expenses (Note 5.2);
- estimating discount rate when not implicit in the lease (Note 6.1);
- determining whether the lease arrangement is in substance short-term arrangement (Note 6.1);
- lease terms (Note 6.2);
- determining whether the performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether the arrangement is within the scope of AASB 15 or AASB 1058 (Note 2.2.1);
- the timing of satisfaction of performance obligations (Note 2.2.1);
- determining transaction price and amounts allocated to performance obligations (Note 2.2.1);
- fair value measurements of assets and liabilities (Note 7.3).

Rounding

Unless otherwise stated, amounts in the report have been rounded to the nearest dollar. Figures in the financial report may not equate due to rounding.

Compliance Information

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994 (FMA)* and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASs) which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). In particular, they are presented in a manner consistent with the requirements of AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

Where appropriate, those AASs paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied. Accounting policies selected and applied in these financial statements ensure that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

NOTE 2 FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Introduction

The Authority's overall objective is for the co-ordinated control of natural resource management within the broader catchments of Glenelg Hopkins. The role of the Authority is to ensure effective implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy. Associated with this role the Authority carries out strategic planning and advises Government.

To enable the Authority to deliver on its objectives, it receives income predominantly through State and Commonwealth Government Contributions.

Structure

- 2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services
- 2.2 Income from transactions

2.1 SUMMARY OF INCOME THAT FUNDS THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Significant judgement: Grants Contributions

The Authority has made the judgement that amounts received in relation to government contributions should be recognised under AASB 1058 on the basis that the relevant funding agreements do not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations to satisfy the application of AASB 15.

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Government contributions	2.2.1	13,762,399	10,546,790
Interest income	2.2.2	372,811	26,553
Other income	2.2.3	223,059	237,606
Total income from transactions		14,358,269	10,810,949

2.2 INCOME FROM TRANSACTIONS

2.2.1 Government contributions

	2023 \$	2022 \$
State Government		
Income recognised as income of not-for-profit entities under AASB 1058		
Catchment Planning	513,250	950,940
River Health	4,996,000	4,206,000
Floodplain Management	1,693,000	150,000
Other State Funding	1,906,911	2,209,823
	9,109,161	7,516,763
Commonwealth Government		
Revenue recognised as revenue from contracts with customers under AASB 15		
National Landcare Program	3,899,557	2,329,231
Other Commonwealth Funding	753,681	700,795
	4,653,238	3,030,026
Total Government contributions	13,762,399	10,546,789

Grants recognised under AASB 1058

The Authority has determined that the grant income included in the table above under AASB 1058 has been earned under arrangements that are either not enforceable and/or linked to sufficiently specific performance obligations.

Income from grants without any sufficiently specific performance obligations, or that are not enforceable, is recognised when the Authority has unconditional right to receive cash which usually coincides with receipt of cash. On initial recognition of the assets, the Authority recognises any increase in liabilities, decrease in assets, and revenue ('related amount') in accordance with other Australian Accounting Standards. Related amounts may take the form of:

- revenue or a contract liability arising from a contract with a customer, in accordance with AASB 15;
- a lease liability in accordance with AASB 16;
- a financial instrument, in accordance with AASB 9; or
- a provision, in accordance with AASB 137 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assts.*

Grants recognised under AASB 15

Income from grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations are accounted for as revenue from contracts with customers under AASB 15.

2.2.2 Interest

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Interest on bank deposits	372,811	26,553

Interest income includes interest received on bank deposits. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method which allocates the interest over the relevant period.

2.2.3 Other income

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Partnership Contributions	178,363	204,494
Sundry	44,695	33,111
Total other income	223,059	237,605

Partnership contributions consists of funds received from organisations as partners in major projects, and are recognised as income on receipt as they do not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations, and are disclosed in the comprehensive operating statement as other income.

All other income is recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

NOTE 3 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

Introduction

This section provides an account of the expenses incurred by the Authority in delivering services. In Section 2, the funds that enable the provision of services were disclosed and in this note the cost association with the provision of services are recorded.

Structure

- 3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services
- 3.2 Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies

3.1 EXPENSES INCURRED IN DELIVERY OF SERVICES

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Employee expenses	3.1.1	4,821,368	4,902,963
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	5,229,203	3,347,399
Other operating expenses	3.3	721,078	572,927
Total expenses incurred in the delivery of services		10,771,649	8,823,289

3.1.1 Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Salaries & wages	3,438,476	3,576,598
Annual leave	411,383	266,109
Long service leave	199,675	60,462
Other leave	370,415	400,830
Defined contribution superannuation expense	446,149	421,654
Other employee expenses	97,739	97,251
Movement in provisions for employee benefits (i)	(142,470)	80,060
Total employee benefit expenses	4,821,367	4,902,964

Note: (i) The decrease in movement in provisions for employee benefits in 2023 is due to a decrease in the discount rate and oncosts used to calculate the carrying amount of employee leave provisions. The provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, where the carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows, using a wage inflation and discount rate that reflects the time, value of money and risks specific to the provision.

Employee expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, payroll tax, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, termination payments and WorkCover premiums.

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to superannuation is employer contributions for members of defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period.

3.1.2 Employee benefits in the balance sheet

Significant judgement: Employee benefit provisions

In measuring employee benefit provisions, consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using a single weighted average discount rate based on market yields of national government bonds in Australia that reflects the estimated timing and amount of benefit payment.

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave (LSL) for services rendered to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current provisions for employee benefits		
Time in lieu and RDO:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	32,219	34,309
Annual leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	384,075	417,397
Long service leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	57,037	78,400
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	523,262	611,727
Provisions for on-costs		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	7,438	10,432
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	68,233	81,393
Total current provisions	1,072,264	1,233,658
Non-current provisions for employee benefits		
Long service leave:		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	122,047	106,904
Provisions for on-costs		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	15,915	14,224
Total non-current provisions	137,962	121,128
Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs	1,210,226	1,354,786

	2023 \$
Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision	
Opening balance	106,049
Net reductions resulting from payments/other sacrifices of future economic benefit	(14,463)
Closing balance	91,586

Wages and salaries and annual leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and on-costs) are recognised as part of the employee benefit provision as current liabilities, because the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities.

The annual leave liability is classified as a current liability, as the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Annual leave balances of less than 6 weeks are measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid, whilst balances above 6 weeks are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity.

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the average sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as it is taken.

Employment on-costs such as payroll tax and workers compensation are not employee benefits. They are disclosed separately as a component of the provision for employee benefits when the employment to which they relate has occurred.

Long service leave (LSL)

Regardless of the expected timing of settlement, unconditional LSL is classified as a current liability because the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of these liabilities.

Unconditional LSL liability amounts expected to be wholly settled within 12 months are measured at the nominal value. Unconditional LSL liability amount that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity.

Unconditional LSL represents long service leave entitlements accrued for employees with more than 7 years of continuous service.

Conditional LSL is classified as a non-current liability and measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised as a transaction, except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised as an 'other economic flow' in the net result.

3.1.3 Superannuation contributions

Employees of the Authority are entitled to receive superannuation benefits and the Authority contributes to defined contribution plans only.

The name, details and amounts expensed in relation to the major employee superannuation funds and contributions made by the Authority, and outstanding at year end, are as follows:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Defined contribution plans:		
Vision super	184,042	182,655
Aware Super (formerly Vic super)	59,165	53,742
Other private schemes	202,942	185,257
Total	446,149	421,654

There was \$38,640 in contributions outstanding to the above schemes as at 30 June 2023 (2022: \$38,141)

3.2 MATERIALS, MAINTENANCE, GRANTS, CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCIES

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Materials	134,655	65,501
Repairs and maintenance	16,751	15,595
Grants paid	733,140	756,157
Contractors	2,826,132	1,762,382
Consultants	1,518,525	747,765
Total materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	5,229,203	3,347,400

Grants are recognised in the period in which they are paid or payable.

Materials, contractors and consultants are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

3.3 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations and are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

NOTE 4 KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY**Introduction**

The Authority controls property and other investments that are utilised in fulfilling its objectives and conducting its activities. They represent the key resources that have been entrusted to the Authority to be utilised for delivery of those outputs.

Structure

- 4.1 Total property, plant and equipment
- 4.2 Intangible assets

4.1 TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT		ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION		NET CARRYING AMOUNT	
	2023 \$	2022 \$	2023 \$	2022 \$	2023 \$	2022 \$
Land at fair value	150,000	150,000	-	-	150,000	150,000
Buildings at fair value	980,108	980,108	(214,230)	(143,808)	765,878	836,300
Plant and equipment at fair value	469,997	384,856	(283,574)	(247,943)	186,423	136,913
Office furniture and equipment at fair value	100,296	100,296	(86,076)	(81,683)	14,220	18,612
Motor vehicles at fair value	297,975	272,652	(259,285)	(245,152)	38,690	27,500
Net carrying amount	1,998,376	1,887,912	(843,165)	(718,586)	1,155,211	1,169,325

4.1.1 Total right-of-use assets

This note explores right-of-use assets, a subset of the Authority's total assets, where right-of-use assets represent the Authority's right to use an underlying asset for the lease term.

	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT 2023 \$	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION 2023 \$	NET CARRYING AMOUNT 2023 \$	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT 2022 \$	NET CARRYING AMOUNT 2022 \$	NET CARRYING AMOUNT 2022 \$
Buildings at fair value	130,108	(112,230)	17,878	130,108	(92,808)	37,300
Motor vehicles and equipment	297,975	(259,285)	38,690	272,652	(245,152)	27,500
Net carrying amount	428,083	(371,515)	56,568	402,760	(337,960)	64,800

	BUILDINGS AT FAIR VALUE \$	MOTOR VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT AT FAIR VALUE \$
Opening Balance - 1 July 2022	37,300	27,500
Additions	-	37,419
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation	(36,669)	(17,898)
Closing Balance - 30 June 2023	631	47,021

	BUILDINGS AT FAIR VALUE \$	MOTOR VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT AT FAIR VALUE \$
Opening Balance - 1 July 2021	91,264	85,868
Additions	-	25,596
Disposals	-	(9,688)
Depreciation	(53,964)	(74,276)
Closing Balance - 30 June 2022	37,300	27,500

Initial recognition

Items of property, plant and equipment are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is its fair value at the date of acquisition. Assets transferred as part of a machinery of government change are transferred at their carrying amount.

Items with a cost or value in excess of \$1,000, or in the case of ICT equipment in excess of \$200, and a useful life of more than one year are recognised as an asset. All other assets acquired are expensed.

Right-of-use asset acquired by lessees

- Initial measurement

The Authority recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any incentive received; plus
- any indirect costs incurred; and
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

Subsequent measurement

Property, plant and equipment are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Non-specialised land is valued using the market approach, whereby assets are compared to recent comparable sales or sales of comparable assets that are considered to have nominal value.

The market approach is also used for specialised land, although is adjusted for the community service obligation (CSO) to reflect the specialised nature of the land being valued.

The CSO adjustment reflects the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that the CSO adjustment is also equally applicable to market participants.

Non-specialised buildings and works assets are valued using the current replacement cost method.

Right-of-use asset - Subsequent measurement

The Authority depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight-line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term.

As per the requirements of FRD103 *Non-Financial Physical Assets*, right-of-use assets are subject to revaluation to Fair Value, whereby management undertake an assessment to determine whether the current lease payments under the contract approximate current market rentals for equivalent properties that would be paid in the current environment.

Management has completed an assessment at 30 June 2023 comparing current lease payments against current market rentals for equivalent properties and has determined that no adjustment to the right-of-use asset or liability is required.

In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any and adjusted for certain remeasurements of the lease liability.

Revaluation of property, plant and equipment

Non-financial physical assets are revalued at fair value every five years in accordance with the Government purpose classifications defined in Financial Reporting Direction 103 Non-Financial Physical Assets (FRD 103). The Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) is the Government's independent valuation agency and is used by the Authority to conduct these scheduled revaluations.

Revaluations may occur more frequently if fair value assessments indicate material changes in values. In such instances, interim managerial revaluations are undertaken in accordance with the requirements of FRD 103.

The Authority in conjunction with VGV, monitors changes in the fair value of each asset class through relevant data sources, in order to determine whether a revaluation is required.

The Authority's assets relating to land and buildings were independently valued by the VGV as at 30 June 2021.

The construction market is being impacted by the uncertainty caused by high inflation, rising interest rates and increased costs of construction due to continued supply chain issues. As at the date of the valuation of buildings, the valuer considers that there are market uncertainties resulting in significant valuation uncertainties. The value assessed at valuation date may therefore change over a relatively short time period.

Note 7.3 includes additional information in connection with fair value determination of property, plant and equipment.

Accounting for revaluation movements - land and buildings

Fair value is determined with regard to the asset's highest and best use (considering legal or physical restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset).

Revaluation increases or decreases arise from differences between an asset's carrying value and its fair value.

Revaluation increases and decreases relating to individual assets in a class of PPE, are offset against other assets in that class but are not offset against assets in different classes.

An asset revaluation surplus is not transferred to accumulated funds on the de-recognition of the related asset.

Revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve, except to the extent that an increment reverses a revaluation decrement in respect of that class of asset previously recognised as an expense, in which case the increment is recognised immediately as revenue.

Revaluation decrements are recognised immediately as an expense, except to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve applicable to the same class of assets, in which case the decrement is debited directly to the asset revaluation reserve.

4.1.2 Depreciation and amortisation

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Charge for the period		
Buildings	87,669	81,597
Plant & equipment	35,632	17,235
Office furniture & equipment	4,392	4,400
Motor Vehicles	26,880	74,276
Total depreciation and amortisation	154,573	177,508

Depreciation and amortisation for the period of which relates to right-of-use assets:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Buildings	36,669	53,964
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	17,898	74,276
	54,567	128,240

All buildings, plant and equipment and other non-financial physical assets that have finite useful lives are depreciated.

Land which is considered to have an indefinite life and is not depreciated. Depreciation is not recognised in respect of these assets because their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

ASSET	USEFUL LIFE
Buildings	8 - 47 years
Buildings - right-of-use	2 - 20 years
Plant and equipment	4 - 5 years
Office furniture & equipment	5 - 10 years
Right-of-use assets	2 - 5 years

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments made where appropriate.

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term.

Impairment

The recoverable amount of primarily non-cash-generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, with the consequence that AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets* does not apply to such assets that are regularly revalued.

4.1.3 Reconciliation of movements in carrying values of property, plant and equipment

	LAND AT FAIR VALUE \$	BUILDINGS AT FAIR VALUE \$	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AT FAIR VALUE \$	OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT AT FAIR VALUE \$	MOTOR VEHICLES AT FAIR VALUE \$	TOTAL \$
2022-23						
Opening balance	150,000	836,300	136,913	18,612	27,499	1,169,325
Additions	-	-	85,141	-	37,419	122,560
ROU adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	(87,669)	(35,632)	(4,392)	(8,982)	(136,675)
Closing balance	150,000	748,631	186,422	14,220	55,936	1,155,211
2021-22						
Opening balance	150,000	917,897	43,352	23,012	74,538	1,208,800
Additions	-	-	110,806	-	25,596	136,402
Disposals	-	-	(10)	-	-	(10)
ROU adjustment	-	-	-	-	1,641	1,641
Depreciation	-	(81,597)	(17,235)	(4,400)	(74,276)	(177,508)
Closing balance	150,000	836,300	136,913	18,612	27,499	1,169,325

Note: (i) An independent valuation of the Authority's land and buildings was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria as at 30 June 2021.

4.2 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Where the SaaS arrangement supplier provides both configuration and customisation services, judgement has been applied to determine whether each of these services are distinct or not from the underlying use of the SaaS application software. Distinct configuration and customisation costs are expensed as incurred as the software is configured or customised (i.e. upfront). Non-distinct configuration and customisation costs are expensed over the SaaS contract term.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Computer Software		
Gross carrying amount		
Opening Balance	-	206,250
Additions	-	11,368
Other Operating Expenses	-	(217,618)
Closing balance	-	-

Initial recognition

Purchased intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. When the recognition criteria in AASB 138 *Intangible Assets* is met, internally generated intangible assets are recognised at cost. Subsequently, intangible assets with finite useful lives are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation and amortisation begins when the asset is available for use, that is, when it is in the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Subsequent measurement

Intangible produced assets with finite useful lives, are amortised as an 'expense from transactions' on a straight line basis over their useful lives.

Impairment of intangible assets

Intangible assets with finite useful lives are tested for impairment whenever an indication of impairment is identified. The policy in connection with testing for impairment is outlined in section 4.1.2

Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) arrangements

SaaS arrangements are service contracts providing the Authority with the right to access the cloud provider's application software over the contract period. As such, the Authority does not receive a software intangible asset at the contract commencement date.

Please refer to Note 8.8 for the change in accounting policy relating to SaaS arrangements.

NOTE 5 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Introduction

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Authority's operations.

Structure

- 5.1 Receivables
- 5.2 Payables

5.1 RECEIVABLES

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Receivables		
Contractual		
Trade receivables	1,350,403	236,248
	1,350,403	236,248
Statutory		
GST input tax credits recoverable	60,977	46,180
	60,977	46,180
Total receivables	1,411,380	282,428

All receivables are current

Receivables consist of:

- Contractual receivables, which are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'financial assets at amortised cost'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. The Authority holds the contractual receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore subsequently measures them at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment. Subsequent to initial measurement they are measured at amortised cost less any impairment; and
- Statutory receivables, which do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment), but are not classified as financial instruments for disclosure purposes.

Details about the Authority's impairment policies, the Authority's exposure to credit risk, and the calculation of the loss allowance are set out in Note 7.1.

5.2 PAYABLES

Accrued expenses represent goods or services that have been received or supplied but have not been invoiced by the supplier. In estimating the amount of an accrued expense, consideration is given to the stage of completion of the services being performed.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Payables		
Contractual		
Accrued expenses	143,117	204,556
Other payables	408,619	94,635
	551,736	299,191
Statutory		
Superannuation	38,640	38,141
PAYG/GST payable	84,148	78,578
	122,788	116,719
Total payables	674,524	415,910
Represented by:		
Current Payables	674,524	415,910

Payables consist of:

- Contractual payables, classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Authority prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid; and
- Statutory payables, that are recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables, but are not classified as financial instruments and not included in the category of financial liabilities at amortised cost, because they do not arise from contracts.
- Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days.

5.2.1 Maturity analysis of contractual payables (i)

	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	NOMINAL AMOUNT \$	MATURITY DATES		
			LESS THAN 1 MONTH \$	1-3 MONTHS \$	3-6 MONTHS \$
2023					
Payables					
Trade payables	143,117	143,117	143,117	-	-
Accrued expenses	408,619	408,619	408,619	-	-
Total	551,736	551,736	551,736	-	-
2022					
Payables					
Trade payables	204,556	204,556	204,556	-	-
Accrued expenses	94,635	94,635	94,635	-	-
Total	299,191	299,191	299,191	-	-

Note: (i) Maturity Analysis is presented using the contractual undiscounted cash flows.

NOTE 6 HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS

Introduction

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the Authority during its operations, along with interest expenses (the cost of borrowings) and other information related to financing activities of the Authority.

This section includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments, such as cash balances. Notes 7.1 and 7.3 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

Structure

- 6.1 Lease Liabilities
- 6.2 Cash flow information and balances
- 6.3 Commitments for expenditure
- 6.4 Carry forward project funding

6.1 LEASE LIABILITIES

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current lease liabilities			
Lease Liabilities (i)	6.1.1	50,677	43,715
Total current leases liabilities		50,677	43,715
Non-current lease liabilities			
Lease Liabilities (i)	6.1.1	25,960	30,685
Total non-current lease liabilities		25,960	30,685

Note: (i) Secured by assets leased. Leases liabilities are effectively secured as the right to the lease assets revert to the lessor in the event of default.

6.1.1 Maturity analysis of interest-bearing lease liabilities

	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	NOMINAL AMOUNT \$	MATURITY DATES				
			LESS THAN 1 MONTH \$	1-3 MONTHS \$	3-12 MONTHS \$	1-5 YEARS \$	5+ YEARS \$
2023							
Lease liabilities	76,637	76,637	4,120	8,239	38,374	25,904	-
Total	76,637	76,637	4,120	8,239	38,374	25,904	-
2022							
Lease liabilities	74,400	74,400	3,856	8,884	30,976	30,684	-
Total	74,400	74,400	3,856	8,884	30,976	30,684	-

6.1.2 Interest expense

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Interest on leases liabilities	1,989	2,987
Total interest expense	1,989	2,987

Interest expense includes the interest component of the lease repayments, and is recognised in the period in which it was incurred through lease expenses in the comprehensive operating statement.

6.1 Leases

In determining the lease term, the Authority considers all facts and circumstances that create an economic incentive to exercise an extension option, or not exercise a termination option. The assessment is reviewed if a significant event or a significant change in circumstances occurs which affects this assessment.

The Authority leases various properties. Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and contain a wide range of different terms and conditions. Rental contracts are typically for fixed periods of between 1 to 5 years, with up to extension options of between 1 to 10 years typically available.

Leases with a contract term of 1 year and a value of less than \$10,000 are either short-term and/or leases of low value and are recognised on a straight-line basis. The Authority has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for these leases.

6.1.3 Right-of-use assets

Right-of-use assets are presented in Note 4.1.1

6.1.4 Amounts recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement

The following amounts are recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement for the year ending 30 June 2023 relating to leases:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Interest expense on lease liabilities	1,989	2,987
Expenses relating to short-term leases	-	12,420
Total amount recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement	1,989	15,407

6.1.5 Amounts recognised in the Cashflow Statement

The following amounts are recognised in the Cashflow Statement for the year ending 30 June 2023 relating to leases:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Interest on leases liabilities	1,989	2,987
Expenses relating to short-term leases	-	12,420
Repayment of principal portion of lease liabilities	119,603	112,385
Total cash outflow for leases	121,592	127,792

For any new contracts entered into, the Authority considers whether a contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'. To apply this definition the Authority assesses whether the contract meets three key evaluations:

- Whether the contract contains an identified asset, which is either explicitly identified in the contract or implicitly specified by being identified at the time the asset is made available to the Authority and for which the supplier does not have substantive substitution rights;
- Whether the authority has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the identified asset throughout the period of use, considering its rights within the defined scope of the contract and the Authority has the right to direct the use of the identified asset throughout the period of use; and
- Whether the authority has the right to take decisions in respect of 'how and for what purpose' the asset is used throughout the period of use.

This policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

Lease Liability - Initial Measurement

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease if that rate is readily determinable or the Authority's incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentive receivable;
- variable payments based on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- payments arising from purchase and termination options reasonably certain to be exercised.

Lease Liability - Subsequent Measurement

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification, or if there are changes in-substance to fixed payments.

When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset, or net result if the right-of-use asset is already reduced to zero.

Short-term and low value leases

The Authority has elected to account for short-term and low value leases using the practical expedients. Instead of recognising a right-of-use asset and lease liability, the payments in relation to these are recognised as an expense in net result on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Presentation of right-of-use assets and lease liabilities

The authority presents right-of-use assets as 'property plant equipment' unless they meet the definition of investment property, in which case they are disclosed as 'investment property' in the balance sheet. Lease liabilities are presented as 'borrowings' in the balance sheet.

6.2 CASH FLOW INFORMATION AND BALANCES

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet:		
Cash at bank	6,920,105	4,660,900
Deposits at call	6,228,106	6,056,565
Balance as per cash flow statement	13,148,211	10,717,465

6.2.1 Reconciliation of net result for the period to cash flow from operating activities

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Net result for the period	3,432,047	1,810,152
Non-cash movements:		
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	154,573	177,508
	3,586,620	1,987,660
Movements in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	(1,131,707)	813,043
Decrease/(increase) in non-financial assets	(11,255)	239,303
(Decrease)/increase in payables	258,614	41,515
(Decrease)/increase in employee benefits	(144,560)	91,569
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	2,557,712	3,173,090

6.3 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

6.3.1 Total commitments payable

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Commitments payable		
Less than 1 year	1,154,688	800,255
1 to 5 years	734,856	-
5 years or more	-	-
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	1,889,544	800,255

External program commitments relate to contract for contractors, consultants and other project delivery costs required to complete current projects that funding has been received for. These contracts expire at the end of each project.

6.4 CARRY FORWARD PROJECT FUNDING

Catchment Management Authorities are responsible for the facilitation and coordination of catchments in an integrated and sustainable manner. This is achieved by undertaking projects funded by Victorian and Australian Government programs. The Authority received funding for specific projects which are guided by the Regional Catchment Strategy and delivered in line with the Authority's Corporate Plan approved by the Minister for Water.

The projects funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments can be undertaken over multiple financial years and is received at various stages of the project life based on contractual agreements. At the end of the financial year there are some projects that have not reached completion but will be completed within the contractual terms in future financial periods. At balance date the Authority has cash and cash equivalents that will be utilised to complete these projects in future financial years.

NOTE 7 RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

Introduction

The Authority is exposed to risk from its activities and outside factors. In addition, it is often necessary to make judgements and estimates associated with recognition and measurement of items in the financial statements. This section sets out financial instrument specific information, (including exposures to financial risks) as well as those items that are contingent in nature or require a higher level of judgement to be applied, which for the Authority relate mainly to fair value determination.

Structure

- 7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures
- 7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities
- 7.3 Fair value determination

7.1 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS SPECIFIC DISCLOSURES

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the Authority's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract, and as such, do not meet the definition of financial instruments.

Categories of financial instruments

Financial Assets are measured at amortised cost if they are held by the Authority to collect contractual cash flows, the contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest, and if they not designated as fair value through net result. These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, these financial assets are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment. The financial assets at amortised cost category includes cash and deposits, and trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables and lease liabilities).

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in profit and loss over the period of the interest bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method.

Financial instrument liabilities measured at amortised cost include all of the Authority's contractual payables (excluding statutory payables).

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Contractual receivables at amortised cost

The Authority applies AASB 9 simplified approach for all contractual receivables to measure the expected credit losses using a lifetime expected loss allowance based on the assumptions about the risk of default and the expected loss rates. The Authority has grouped contractual receivables on shared credit risk characteristics and days past due, and select the credit loss rate based on the Authority's past history, existing market conditions, as well as forward-looking estimates at the end of the financial year.

Under this approach, the expected loss rate for the year ending 30 June 2023 has been calculated at 0%, and as such no loss allowance has been recognised. The Authority has a low expected loss rate due to majority of funding sourced from State and Federal government.

On this basis, the Authority determines the closing loss allowance at the end of the financial year as follows:

	CURRENT	LESS THAN 1 MONTH	1-3 MONTHS	3 MONTHS - 1 YEAR	1-5 YEARS	TOTAL
30 June 2022						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	214,248	-	22,000	-	-	236,248
Loss Allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 June 2023						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	1,318,468	-	33,396	1,295	-	1,353,159
Loss Allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-

Statutory receivables at amortised cost

The Authority's non-contractual receivables arising from statutory requirements are not financial instruments. However, they are nevertheless recognised and measured in accordance with AASB 9 requirements as if those receivables are financial instruments.

Statutory receivables are considered to have low credit risk, taking into account the counterparty's credit rating, risk of default and capacity to meet contractual cash flow obligations in the near term. As a result, the loss allowance recognised for these financial assets during the period was limited to 12 months expected losses.

Interest rate exposure of financial instruments

	WEIGHTED AVERAGE INTEREST RATE %	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	INTEREST RATE EXPOSURE		
			FIXED INTEREST RATE \$	VARIABLE INTEREST RATE \$	NON-INTEREST BEARING \$
2023					
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	2.84%	13,148,211	-	13,148,211	-
Contractual receivables		1,350,403	-	-	1,350,403
Total financial assets		14,498,614	-	13,148,211	1,350,403
Financial liabilities					
Contractual payables		551,736	-	-	551,736
Lease liabilities		76,637	76,637	-	-
Total financial liabilities		628,373	76,637	-	551,736
2022					
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	0.25%	10,717,465	-	10,717,465	-
Contractual receivables		236,248	-	-	236,248
Total financial assets		10,953,713	-	10,717,465	236,248
Financial liabilities					
Contractual payables		299,191	-	-	299,191
Lease liabilities		74,400	74,400	-	-
Total financial liabilities		373,591	74,400	-	299,191

Interest rate risk sensitivity

The sensitivity analysis below shows the impact on the Authority's net result and equity for a movement of 50 basis points up and down in market interest rates.

	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	INTEREST RATE			
		-50 BASIS POINTS		+50 BASIS POINTS	
		NET RESULT \$	REVALUATION SURPLUS \$	NET RESULT \$	REVALUATION SURPLUS \$
2023					
Cash and deposits (i)	13,148,211	(65,741)	-	65,741	-
2022					
Cash and deposits (i)	10,717,465	(53,587)	-	53,587	-

(i) Cash and deposits includes \$13,148,211 (2022: \$10,717,465) that is exposed to floating rates movements.

Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2023: \$13,148,211 x -0.005 = -\$65,741; and \$10,717,465 x 0.005 = \$65,741
- 2022: \$10,717,465 x -0.005 = -\$53,587; and \$10,717,465 x 0.005 = \$53,587

7.1.2 Financial instruments: Categorisation

	FINANCIAL ASSETS AT AMORTISED COST \$	FINANCIAL LIABILITIES AT AMORTISED COST \$	TOTAL \$
2023			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	13,148,211	-	13,148,211
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	1,350,403	-	1,350,403
Other receivables	2,756	-	2,756
Total contractual financial assets	14,501,370	-	14,501,370
Contractual financial liabilities			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Trade payables	-	408,619	408,619
Accrued expenses	-	143,117	143,117
<i>Borrowings:</i>			
Lease liabilities	-	76,637	76,637
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	628,373	628,373
2022			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	10,717,465	-	10,717,465
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	236,248	-	236,248
Other receivables	-	-	-
Total contractual financial assets	10,953,713	-	10,953,713
Contractual financial liabilities			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Trade payables	-	94,635	94,635
Accrued expenses	-	204,556	204,556
<i>Borrowings:</i>			
Lease liabilities	-	74,400	74,400
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	373,591	373,591

(i) The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts.

(ii) Lease Liabilities are measured using AASB 16 and have been included here for completeness of financial liability disclosures.

7.1.3 Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Authority's main financial risks include credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. The Authority manages these financial risks in accordance with its financial risk management policy.

The Authority uses different methods to measure and manage the different risks to which it is exposed. Primary responsibility for the identification and management of financial risks rests with the CEO and the Board.

Financial instruments: Credit risk

Credit risk refers to the possibility that a borrower will default on its financial obligations as and when they fall due. The Authority's exposure to credit risk arises from the potential default of a counter party on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Authority. Credit risk is measured at fair value and is monitored on a regular basis.

Credit risk associated with the Authority's contractual financial assets is minimal because the main debtors are the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments. For debtors other than the Government, the Authority has adopted a policy of only dealing with creditworthy counterparties and obtaining sufficient collateral where appropriate. For cash assets, the Authority's policy is to only deal with banks with a high credit rating assigned by international credit-rating agencies. All cash and deposits are held with the National Australia Bank and the Australia and New Zealand Bank.

The Authority records the allowance for expected credit loss for the relevant financial instruments applying AASB 9's Expected Credit Loss approach. Subject to AASB 9 impairment assessment include the Authority's contractual receivables and statutory receivables.

Financial instruments: Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises from being unable to meet financial obligations as they fall due. The Authority operates under the Government fair payments policy of settling financial obligations within 30 days and in the event of a dispute, making payments within 30 days from the date of resolution.

The Authority's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk. The Authority maintains high levels of cash and deposits readily available to meet its financial obligations. The Authority manages its liquidity risk by maintaining adequate cash reserves and continually monitoring the Authority's expenditure commitments and cash flow needs.

Financial instruments: Market risk

The Authority's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with significant surplus funds held in deposits at a call in the Central Banking System. The Authority has no exposure to foreign exchange risk or other price risk.

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Authority is required to invest surplus funds with the State Government Central Banking System (CBS) in compliance with the Standing Directions 2018 under the Financial Management Act 1994 (2018 Directions). The floating interest rates provided by the Central Banking System expose the Authority to interest rate risk. Management monitors movements in interest rates on a daily basis.

The carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities that are exposed to interest rates and the Authority's sensitivity to interest rate risk are set out in the table that follows:

7.2 CONTINGENT ASSETS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Contingent Assets		
As at 30 June 2023, the Authority has no known contingent assets.	-	-
Contingent liabilities		
VCAT Cases	20,000	20,000

7.3 FAIR VALUE DETERMINATION

Significant judgement: Fair value measurements of assets and liabilities

Fair value determination requires judgement and the use of assumptions. This section discloses the most significant assumptions used in determining fair values. Changes to assumptions could have a material impact on the results and financial position of the Authority.

The Authority's property, plant and equipment are carried at fair value.

In addition, the fair values of other assets and liabilities which are carried at amortised cost, also need to be determined for disclosure purposes.

The Authority determines the policies and procedures for determining fair values for both financial and non-financial assets and liabilities as required.

Fair value hierarchy

In determining fair values, a number of inputs are used. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

- Level 1 – Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

- Level 3 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

The Authority determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

7.3.1 Fair value determination of financial assets and liabilities

The Authority currently holds a range of financial instruments that are recorded in the financial statements where the carrying amounts are a reasonable approximation of fair value, either due to their short-term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of the 2023-24 reporting period.

These financial instruments include:

Financial assets

Cash and deposits
Receivables:

- Trade receivables
- Other receivables

Financial liabilities

Lease liabilities
Payables:

- Trade payables
- Accrued expenses

7.3.1 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets

	CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE 2023 \$	FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD USING:		
		LEVEL 1 \$	LEVEL 2 \$	LEVEL 3 \$
Land at Fair Value				
Non-specialised land	150,000	-	150,000	-
Total Land at Fair Value	150,000	-	150,000	-
Buildings at Fair Value				
Non-specialised buildings	748,000	-	748,000	-
Right-of-Use assets buildings	17,877	-	17,877	-
Total Buildings at Fair Value	765,877	-	765,877	-
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	186,423	-	-	186,423
Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value	186,423	-	-	186,423
Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value				
Office furniture and equipment	14,221	-	-	14,221
Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value	14,221	-	-	14,221
Motor vehicles at Fair Value				
Right-of-Use assets - Motor	38,690	-	-	38,690
Total Motor vehicles at Fair Value	38,690	-	-	38,690

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

	CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE 2022 \$	FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD USING:		
		LEVEL 1 \$	LEVEL 2 \$	LEVEL 3 \$
Land at Fair Value				
Non-specialised land	150,000	-	150,000	-
Total Land at Fair Value	150,000	-	150,000	-
Buildings at Fair Value				
Non-specialised buildings	799,000	-	799,000	-
Right-of-Use Non-specialised buildings	37,300	-	37,300	-
Total Buildings at Fair Value	836,300	-	836,300	-
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	136,913	-	-	136,913
Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value	136,913	-	-	136,913
Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value				
Office furniture and equipment	18,613	-	-	18,613
Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value	18,613	-	-	18,613
Motor vehicles at Fair Value				
Right-of-Use assets - Motor	27,500	-	-	27,500
Total Motor vehicles at Fair Value	27,500	-	-	27,500

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

Non-specialised land & non-specialised buildings

Non-specialised land are valued using the market approach. Under this valuation method, the assets are compared to recent comparable sales or sales of comparable assets which are considered to have nominal or no added improvement value, and are classified as Level 2 fair value measurements.

For the Authority's non-specialised buildings, the current replacement cost method is used, adjusting for the associated depreciations. As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, non-specialised buildings are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

Right-of-use non-specialised buildings are valued as per the requirements of AASB 16 Leases. This is detailed further in Note 6.2.

For non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings (excluding right-of use-assets), an independent valuation was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) to determine the fair value using the market approach. Valuation of the assets was determined by analysing comparable sales and allowing for share, size, topography, location and other relevant factors specific to the asset being valued. From the sales analysed, an appropriate rate per square metre was applied to the subject asset. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2021.

Plant and equipment and Office furniture and equipment

Plant and equipment and office furniture and equipment is held at fair value. When plant and equipment or office furniture and equipment is specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the current replacement cost method.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2023.

For all assets measured at fair value, the current use is considered the highest and best use.

Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value movements

	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT \$	OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT \$	MOTOR VEHICLES \$
2022-23			
Opening Balance	136,914	18,612	27,499
Purchases (sales)	85,141	-	37,419
Depreciation	(35,632)	(4,392)	(8,982)
Subtotal	186,423	14,220	55,936
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Revaluation	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-
Closing Balance	186,423	14,220	55,936
2021-22			
Opening Balance	43,351	23,012	74,538
Purchases (sales)	110,798	-	27,237
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	-	-	-
Depreciation	(17,235)	(4,400)	(74,276)
Subtotal	136,914	18,612	27,499
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Revaluation	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-
Closing Balance	136,914	18,612	27,499

Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

	VALUATION TECHNIQUE	SIGNIFICANT UNOBSERVABLE INPUTS
Non-Specialised buildings	Current replacement cost	Direct cost per square metre Useful life of non-specialised buildings
Plant and equipment	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment
Office furniture and equipment	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of office furniture and equipment
Motor Vehicles	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of vehicles

NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES

This section provides additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report.

Structure

- 8.1 Ex-gratia expenses
- 8.2 Reserves
- 8.3 Responsible persons
- 8.4 Remuneration of executive officers
- 8.5 Related parties
- 8.6 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.7 Subsequent events
- 8.8 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

8.1 EX-GRATIA EXPENSES

Ex gratia expenses are the voluntary payments of money or other non-monetary benefit (e.g. a write-off) that is not made either to acquire goods, services or other benefits for the entity to meet a legal liability, or to settle or resolve a possible legal liability of or claim against the entity.

The Authority had no ex gratia expenses for the year ending 30 June 2023 (2022: \$0).

8.2 RESERVES

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Physical asset revaluation surplus: (i)		
Balance at beginning of financial year	1,006,543	1,006,543
Balance at end of financial year	1,006,543	1,006,543
Total Reserves	1,006,543	1,006,543

Note: (i) The physical assets revaluation surplus arises on the revaluation of land and buildings.

8.3 RESPONSIBLE PERSONS

The names of the persons who were responsible persons of the Authority at any time during the financial year were:

NAME	POSITION	DATE HELD POSITION
The Hon. Harriet Shing, MP	Minister for Water	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, MP	Minister for Energy, Environment & Climate Action	01 Jul 2022 to 04 Dec 2022
The Hon. Ingrid Stitt, MP	Minister for Environment	05 Dec 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Antony Ford	Chair	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Adam Bester	CEO	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Damien Bell	Board Member	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Michelle Casanova	Board Member	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Christine Giles	Board Member	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Celia Tucker	Board Member	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Gerry Quinn	Board Member	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil	Board Member	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023

Remuneration

Remuneration received or receivable from the Authority in connection with the management of the Authority during the reporting period was:

Income band	2023	2022
\$0 - \$9,999	-	1
\$10,000 - \$19,999	6	3
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1	3
\$30,000 - \$39,999	-	1
\$210,000 - \$219,999	1	1
Total number of Responsible persons	8	9
Total Remuneration \$	334,056	329,500

The compensation detailed above excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Ministers receive. The Ministers' remuneration and allowances is set by the *Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968* and is reported within the State's Annual Financial Report.

8.4 REMUNERATION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The number of executive officers, other than Ministers and accountable officers, and their total remuneration during the reporting period are shown in the table below. Total annualised employee equivalents provides a measure of full time equivalent executive officers over the reporting period.

Remuneration comprises employee benefits in all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by the entity, or on behalf of the entity, in exchange for services rendered, and is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Post-employment benefits include pensions and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Other long-term benefits include long service leave, other long-service benefit or deferred compensation.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

Remuneration (i)	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	423,647	440,774
Post-employment benefits	47,700	43,941
Other long-term benefits	11,028	10,849
Total remuneration	482,375	495,564
Total number of executives (ii)	3	3
Total annualised employee equivalents (iii)	3.0	3.0

Notes:

- (i) The total number of executive officers includes persons who meet the definition of Key Management Personnel (KMP) of the entity under AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures and are reported within the related parties note disclosure (Note 8.6)
- (ii) Annualised employee equivalent is based on the time fraction worked over the reporting period.

8.5 RELATED PARTIES

Related parties of the Authority include:

- all key management personnel and their close family members and personal business interests (controlled entities, joint ventures and entities they have significant influence over);
- all cabinet ministers and their close family members; and
- all departments and public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of state consolidated financial statements.

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis.

Significant transactions with government-related entities

GHCMA is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the state of Victoria. During the 2023 financial year, the Authority received significant funding from the following government-related entities:

Entity	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S	PAYMENTS RECEIVED 2023 \$
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Service Level Agreements and Lease Agreement	8,547,360
Victorian Fisheries Authority	Service Level Agreements	138,062

The Authority received significant funding from the following government-related entities for the year ending 30 June 2022:

Entity	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S	PAYMENTS RECEIVED 2022 \$
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Service Level Agreements and Lease Agreement	6,926,068
Victorian Fisheries Authority	Service Level Agreements	146,956
Wannon Water Corporation	Service Level Agreements	20,000

During the 2022 financial year, the Authority made significant payments to the following government-related entities:

Entity	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S	PAYMENTS MADE 2023 \$
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Reimbursement of expenditure and Service Supply Agreements	821,778
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria	Service Supply Agreement	95,340
DTF VicFleet Lease Management	Lease Agreements	92,009
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions	Service Level Agreements and shared services	78,364
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Reimbursement of expenditure	74,625
Trust for Nature (Victoria)	Service Level Agreement	54,387
North Central Catchment Management Authority	Service Level Agreements and shared services	36,150
Wimmera Catchment Management Authority	Service Level Agreement	33,000

During the 2022 financial year, the Authority made significant payments to the following government-related entities:

Entity	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S	PAYMENTS MADE 2022 \$
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Reimbursement of expenditure and Service Supply Agreements	441,949
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Reimbursement of expenditure	233,079
DTF VicFleet Lease Management	Lease Agreement	92,856
Trust for Nature (Victoria)	Service Level Agreement	66,055
North Central Catchment Management Authority	Service Level Agreements and shared services	58,374
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions	Service Level Agreements and shared services	41,000
State Revenue Office	Payroll Tax	39,842
Wimmera Catchment Management Authority	Service Level Agreement	33,000

The compensation detailed below excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Minister receives. The Ministers' remuneration and allowances is set by the *Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968* and is reported within the State's Annual Financial Report.

Compensation of KMPs	2023 \$	2022 \$
Short-term employee benefits	719,445	734,679
Post-employment benefits	80,331	74,666
Other long-term benefits	16,655	15,720
Total	816,431	825,065

There were no significant related party transactions or balances that involved key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interest.

8.6 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of financial statements	16,500	11,400
Internal audit costs	20,800	18,438
Total auditors' remuneration	37,300	29,838

8.7 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the authority, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the authority in future financial years.

8.8 AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ISSUED THAT ARE NOT YET EFFECTIVE

AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities

AASB 2022-10 amends AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement by adding authoritative implementation guidance and illustrative examples for fair value measurements of non-financial assets of not-for-profit entities not held primarily for their ability to generate cash inflows.

Among other things, the Standard:

- specifies that an entity needs to consider whether an asset's highest and best use differs from its current use only when it is held for sale or held for distributions to owners under AASB 5 Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations or if it is highly probable that it will be used for an alternative purpose;
- clarifies that an asset's use is 'financially feasible' if market participants would be willing to invest in the asset's service capacity, considering both the capacity to provide needed goods or services and the resulting costs of those goods and services;
- specifies that if both market selling price and some market participant data required to fair value the asset are not observable, an entity needs to start with its own assumptions and adjust them to the extent that reasonably available information indicates that other market participants would use different data; and
- provides guidance on the application of the cost approach to fair value, including the nature of costs to be included in a reference asset and identification of economic obsolescence.

This Standard applies prospectively to annual periods on or after 1 January 2024, with earlier application permitted.

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SD 5.1.4	Attestation for Financial Management Compliance	50
SD 5.2.3	Responsible Body Declaration in report of operations	2

LEGISLATION

Building Act 1993

CALP Act 1989

Financial Management Act 1994

Freedom of Information Act 1982

Local Jobs First Act 2003

Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012

Glossary

ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute	NRM	Natural Resource Management
ARRC	Australian River Restoration Centre	OCOC	Our Catchments Our Communities
BA	Birdlife Australia	PAA	Public Administration Act
CE	Community Engagement	RAMSAR	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy
CeRDI	Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation	RFMS	Regional Floodplain Management Strategy
CFA	Country Fire Authority	RHD	Rabbit hemorrhagic disease
CMA	Catchment Management Authority	RLC	Regional Landcare Coordinator
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	RLF	Regional Landcare Facilitator
EO	Executive Officer	RWMS	Regional Waterway Management Strategy
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation	SCA	Stock Containment Area
EWRO	Environment Water Reserve Officer	SIP	Sustainable Irrigation Program
FFG	Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act	TfN	Trust for Nature
FHR	Fisheries Habitat Restoration program	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
FTE	Full-time Employee	VAGO	Victorian Auditor-General's Office
GH EQUIP	CMA skills development and learning strategy	VCMC	Victorian Catchment Management Council
GMTOAC	Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	VFMS	Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy
GREWAG	Glenelg River Environmental Water Advisory Group	VicSES	Victoria State Emergency Service
GWMWater	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	VLG	Victorian Landcare Grants
IBA	Important Bird Areas	VPS	Victorian Public Sector
IBAC	Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission	VPSC	Victorian Public Sector Commission
ICT	Information Communication Technology	VVP	Victorian Volcanic Plains
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area	VWMS	Victorian Waterway Management Strategy
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	VWPIF	Victorian Water Program Investment Framework
IRV	Industrial Relations Victoria	YEP	Youth Employment Program
LAC	Limits for Acceptable Change		
MERI	Monitor Evaluate Report and Improvement		
NGT	Nature Glenelg Trust		
NLP	National Landcare Program		
Non-BAU	Non-Business As Usual		



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